

**NEW!**

**REVIEWS:** 1:35 VORPANZER I ■ 1:48 SU122 ■ 1:35 SAS PINK PANTHER...

**STEYR  
STRAITS**



# Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

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## WINSTON'S WONDER

Tamiya's Churchill  
Mk7 gets a serious  
backdating...



# 18 TONS OF WEAR AND TEAR

Tamiya's "Famo" Half-Track gets subjected to some extreme weathering...

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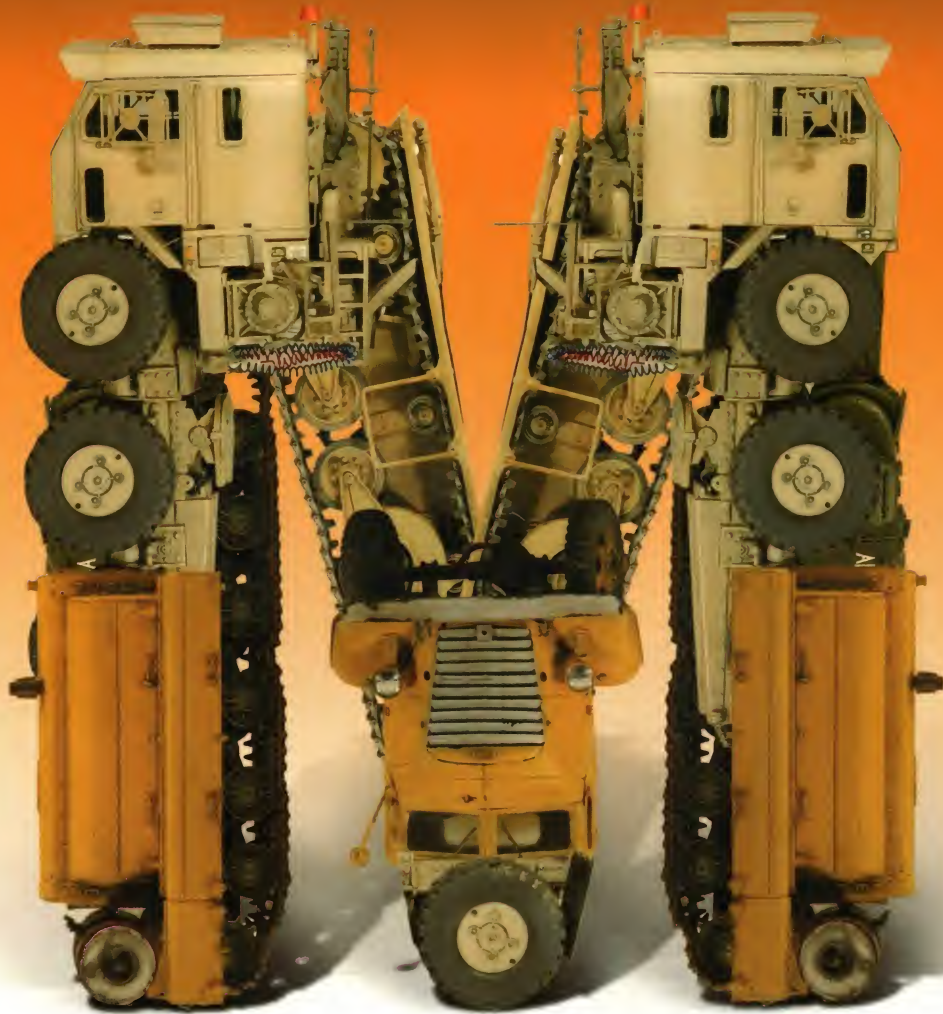




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**Tel:** (UK) 01525 222573  
**Fax:** (UK) 01525 222574  
**Email:** [enquiries@modelmilitary.com](mailto:enquiries@modelmilitary.com)  
**Address:** ADH Publishing,  
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## Diary Dates...

### PLYMOUTH PREMIER SHOW

Saturday 13th May  
Main guild hall, Royal Parade,  
Plymouth.  
10am until 4pm  
Contact:  
Dave Watson 01752 518287  
[spotandjoe@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:spotandjoe@blueyonder.co.uk)

### EAST NEUK MODEL SHOW AND SWAPMEET,

10th June  
YMCA, Bonnygate,  
Cupar, Scotland.  
Contact: Brian 01334-655131  
or Dave 01334-652439

### MAFVA NATIONALS

18th June  
Duxford, Cambs.  
[www.mafva.org.uk](http://www.mafva.org.uk)  
Contact:  
[paul.middleton600@ntlworld.com](mailto:paul.middleton600@ntlworld.com)

### AMAY MODÈLES CLUB

24-25th June  
Amay Modèles Club organizes  
its 15th Modelling Weekend  
(competition, exhibition and  
swap) at the IPES Huy, 6  
Avenue Delchambre, B-4500  
Huy (Belgium).  
Contact: Michel Calluy,  
13 Thier du Moulin, B-4530  
Villers-le-Bouillet (B)  
Tel: 00 32 85 231086  
[michel.calluy@skynet.be](mailto:michel.calluy@skynet.be)

### DRAGON EXPO 2006

23-25th June  
Anaheim Convention Centre,  
Anaheim, California, USA.  
[www.dexpo.com/dx/06/news.asp](http://www.dexpo.com/dx/06/news.asp)



## Bring it to Lifecolor!

The Airbrush Company will now be  
importing and distributing Lifecolor  
acrylic paints from Italy. We have just  
received 3 new box sets including a set  
specifically for German WWII armour  
and one containing modern US Army  
MERDEC colours and their excellent  
Tensocrom weathering solutions.  
All of which we will be using for future  
projects, incidentally the Tensocrom  
solutions worked perfectly for the fuel  
stains on the Tamiya SUI22 on page 8  
of this issue.

The Airbrush Company Ltd, Unit 7,  
Marlbrough Road, Lancing Business  
Park, Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 8UF.  
Tel: +44 (0)8700 660 445,  
Fax: +44 (0)8700 660 817  
email: [alex@airbrushes.com](mailto:alex@airbrushes.com)  
website: [www.airbrushes.com](http://www.airbrushes.com)



# TAMIYA CHARS B TANK IN 1:35

Model Military International has been given some interesting news recently that Tamiya were going to be releasing the French Char B Tank in 1:35 in the near future. Well we do have a little more news at the time of going to press, that the kit is to be officially announced at the Paris show in the middle of April. The way Tamiya are releasing 1:48 vehicles at the moment don't be too surprised if we see this one join the ever expanding range of subjects in this increasingly popular scale.

We think this is a great choice of vehicle, something a little different to constant stream of German vehicles. We will hopefully give a full review of this classic French tank as and when we get one from the manufacturers.

## FEELING SHEEPISH...

Yes, I know it's only Issue 2 of Model Military, but I have let the Editor down already, and I'm feeling thoroughly sheepish... My H34 Choctaw helicopter was supposed to be featured in the issue you are holding, but because I decided to indulge myself with the luxury of sleep this month, the model was not ready in time. Do not worry though, I will get it done as soon as possible though...

Marcus Nicholls



## ACCURATE ARMOUR NEW RELEASES



### 1:35 kit releases scheduled for spring/summer 2006.

Japanese Type-A Midget  
submarine (full hull with decals),  
British WW2 Fordson Canteen  
truck (YMCA & Salvation Army),  
British Pinzgauer 4x4 TUM GS  
(in 3 versions), British 1926  
Vickers Independent A1E1 5  
turret Tank, British Shielder  
VLSMS Anti-tank Mine System,  
British WW2 Loyd Carrier (in 4  
versions), British 4.2" mortar &  
ammunition (with/without 10cwt  
G.S. Trailer).



### 1:48 SUPPORT VEHICLES

Accurate Armour are to  
launch a new 1:48 scale  
range for aircraft and vehicle  
modellers with fine detail,  
ease of construction, etched  
parts and decals. In the range  
will be an Austin K2Y 4x2  
Heavy Ambulance (RAF, USAF  
& Army), AEC 6x6 2500  
gallon Refueller (RAF Bomber  
Command), Bedford QL 1000  
gallon Refueller (RAF),  
Crossley Q-series 4x4 Fire  
Foam Tender (RAF).

# T-34 IN ESTONIA

We know this isn't new news but never the less a fascinating story where after some 55 years a T-34/76 had been recovered from the bottom of a lake near Johvi, Estonia. The tank was discovered by divers in 7 metre deep water whilst buried under 3 metres of peat.

The Tank had been captured and used by the Germans during the summer of 1944, it's new owners drove it into the lake on purpose during their retreat. The tank was recovered with the aid of a 68 ton Komatsu bulldozer from a nearby quarry.

For further pictures and the full story have a look at:  
[www.mil.hiiumaa.ee/2000\\_09\\_14\\_kurtina\\_T-34-36/](http://www.mil.hiiumaa.ee/2000_09_14_kurtina_T-34-36/)



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EMP2	Acrylics Overhead Lighting II	£10.50	£1.00
EMP4	Rarities Modelling Armoured Vehicles	£12.45	£1.00
EMP5	Black & White by Mike Blank	£11.25	£1.00
EMP6	Euro Modelismo Aircraft in Africa	£12.45	£1.00
EMP7	Euro Modelismo World Expo 2002	£10.50	£1.00
EMP8	Hardback German Army Uniforms	£27.50	£2.50
EMP9	Euro Modelismo Aircraft in Africa II	£12.45	£1.00
EMP10	Euro Modelismo Battle of Hastings	£19.95	£1.00
EMP11	Aircraft - Applied Modelling Encyclopedia	£25.25	£1.00
EMP13	Euro Modelismo STUG 3	£17.50	£1.75
EMP14	Sculpting Figures - Body Language	£11.95	£1.00
EMP16	Euro Modelismo Tanks in Russia Part 3	£14.00	£1.00
EMP17	Focke Wolf FW190 and TA 152	£27.50	£2.50
EMP18	Applied Modeling Encycopaedia - Armour	£25.25	£2.50
PAN21	Panzer Aces Issue 1	£6.50	£1.10
PAN22	Panzer Aces Issue 2	£6.50	£1.10
PAN23	Panzer Aces Issue 3	£6.50	£1.10
PAN24	Panzer Aces Issue 4	£6.50	£1.10
PAN25	Panzer Aces Issue 5	£6.50	£1.10
PAN26	Panzer Aces Issue 6	£6.50	£1.10
PAN27	Panzer Aces Issue 7	£6.50	£1.10
PAN28	Panzer Aces Issue 8	£6.50	£1.10
PAN29	Panzer Aces Issue 9	£6.50	£1.10
PAN210	Panzer Aces Issue 10	£6.50	£1.10
PAN211	Panzer Aces Issue 11	£6.50	£1.10
PAN212	Panzer Aces Issue 12	£6.50	£1.10
PAN213	Panzer Aces Issue 13	£6.50	£1.10
PAN214	Panzer Aces Issue 14	£6.50	£1.10

## MILITARY MINIATURES

MMIR31	Military Miniatures in Review 31	£6.95	£1.00
MMIR32	Military Miniatures in Review 32	£6.95	£1.00
MMIR33	Military Miniatures in Review 33	£6.95	£1.00
MMIR34	Military Miniatures in Review 34	£6.95	£1.00
MMIR35	Military Miniatures in Review 35	£6.95	£1.00
MMIR36	Military Miniatures in Review 36	£6.95	£1.00
MMIR37	Military Miniatures in Review 37	£6.95	£1.00
MMIR38	Military Miniatures in Review 38	£6.95	£1.00
MMIR39	Military Miniatures in Review 39	£6.95	£1.00
MMIRAA4	Allied Axis The Photo Journal of WWII	£12.50	£1.50
MMIRAA6	Allied Axis The Photo Journal of WWII	£12.50	£1.50
MMIRAA10	Allied Axis The Photo Journal of WWII	£12.50	£1.50
MMIRAA11	Allied Axis The Photo Journal of WWII	£12.50	£1.50
MMIRAA12	Allied Axis The Photo Journal of WWII	£12.50	£1.50
MMIRAA13	Allied Axis The Photo Journal of WWII	£12.50	£1.50
MMIRAA14	Allied Axis The Photo Journal of WWII	£12.50	£1.50
MMIRAA15	Allied Axis The Photo Journal of WWII	£12.50	£1.50
MMIRAA16	Allied Axis The Photo Journal of WWII	£12.50	£1.50
MMIRJAGD	Jagdpanzer - A comprehensive guide	£18.50	£1.75
MMIRS1	Guide to the Kubelwagen	£14.25	£1.50
MMIRTIGER	The Modeler's Guide to the Tiger Tank	£19.95	£2.00
MMIRSUB	MMIR Subscription UK	£29.50	
MMIRSUBEUR	MMIR Subscription Europe	£35.00	
MMIRSUBROW	MMIR Subscription ROW	£39.00	

## DUSKE NUTS & BOLTS

NB3	Experimental Flak Weapons of Wehrmacht 1	£7.95	£1.00
NB5	Saurer RK-7 Sdkfz 254	£7.95	£1.00
NB8	Experimental Flak Weapons of Wehrmacht 2	£8.50	£1.00
NB10	Hummel	£10.85	£1.00
NB11	Panzerkampfwagen 35 (T) (Skoda LT VZ 35)	£10.85	£1.00
NB12	FAMO	£12.20	£1.50
NB13	Wirbelwind Ostwind	£12.20	£1.50
NB14	Nashorn 8.8cm 43/1 Sdkfz 164	£11.95	£1.50
NB15	Marder III	£11.95	£1.50
NB16	Schwerer Zugkraftwagen 12 ton & variants	£14.35	£1.50
NB17	Marder III Sdkfz 138 Part 1 Ausf M	£14.35	£1.50
NB18	Marder III Ausf. H & 7.5 cm Pak 40	£14.35	£1.50
NB19	15cm slG33 (St) auf PzKpfw 1 Ausf B	£16.30	£2.25

## ANDREA PRESS BOOKS

AP1	The Golden West	£13.95	0.75p
AP2	Knights in Miniature	£13.95	0.75p
AP3	Napoleonic Models in Miniature	£12.45	0.75p
AP5	Conversion & Scratch Building of Figures	£8.50	0.75p
AP7	World Expo Portfolio	£12.25	£1.00
AP8	Roma Victrix - The Roman Army in Miniature	£11.95	£1.00
AP9	Bireme	£16.00	£1.00
AP11	Imperium Legionis	£19.95	£1.00
AP12	The Templars	£13.50	£1.00
AP13	The Red Baron	£13.50	£1.00
AP14	The Complete Bill Horan	£52.50	£4.95
AP15	Battle of Corunna	£14.95	£1.00
AP16	The German Army in World War II -	£16.55	£1.20
AP17	La Grande Armee	£19.95	£2.00
AP18	Painting Horses - A Modelling Manual	£13.50	£1.00
AP19	The War on Terror	£13.50	£1.00
AP20	Hannibal's Army	£13.50	£1.00
AP21	The Guerrilla 1808-1814	£13.50	£1.00
AP22	Painting Medieval Figures II	£13.50	£1.00
AP23	F.A.Q. by Mig Jimenez	£39.95	£3.80
AP24	How to Paint Fantasy Figures	£13.50	£1.00
AP25	Painting Indians	£11.25	£1.00

## NEW CONNECTIONS

NC3531	Metal Barrel Beobachtungspanzer Panther	£4.30	50p
NC3547	Munition Set 122mm JS-III	£8.40	50p
NC3556	2cm RH 202 / Turned Metal Barrel/ Marder	£4.30	50p
NC3557	Lw 5 lauster Wargel (full kit)	£102.65	£2.00
NC3558	Katzchen (conversion kit)	£49.60	£1.00
NC3562	Aufklarungspanzer 38 (2cm)	£41.00	£1.00
NC3563	Hetzler/Pz IV Turret/PAW 60 D	£41.00	£1.00
NC3565	Tauchp3z III Putlos conversion kit	£32.35	50p
NC3566	Jagd Pz 38 D Complete Kit	£87.75	£2.00
NC3572	Pz IV A (conversion kit)	£41.00	£1.00
NC3574	P3 IV Hydrostatic Drive (conversion kit)	£32.35	50p
NC3575	60cm Grenade / Motar Karl	£6.90	50p
NC3577	Magirus KHD A/S 3000 (conversion kit)	£41.00	£1.00
NC3583	T34 with German Flakdrilling	£41.00	£1.00
NC3593	Vorpanzer P3IV/Additional Armour	£9.95	50p
NC3597	Infrared Fighting Gear/Vehicle s	£8.40	50p
NC35106	Falke IR (conversion kit)	£25.90	50p
NC35109	T34 Ammo Carrier (conversion kit)	£31.05	50p
NC35110	RSO Amphibious Type Production Model	£20.30	50p
NC35111	RSO SP Gun detail (conversion kit)	£21.55	50p
NC35112	RSO Amphibious type proposed version	£35.35	50p
NC35113	RSO Supply Carrier Armoured Cab	£35.35	50p
NC35114	M8 Flakdrilling (conversion kit)	£19.85	50p
NC35118	Hetzler / Stug III MG Shields	£8.40	50p
NC35128	Panzer IV H Krupp Prototype	£15.55	50p
NC35129	Auxiliary Field Repaircrane on Maultier	£31.05	50p
NC35130	Fliegerbeschussgerat AA M6 Mount	£5.60	50p
NC35132	Sorkel Pz III N	£5.60	50p
NC35135	T54 Ammo Set	£8.40	50p
NC35166	Ostwind (conversion kit)	£36.65	50p
NC35167	Pz 1B Fahrschulwanne (conversion kit)	£31.05	50p
NC35168	Sdkfz 234 Drilling (conversion kit)	£31.05	50p
NC35171	Pz IV Raketenwerfer (conversion kit)	£26.75	50p
NC35172	Sdkfz 234/Schwabelfafette (conversion kit)	£22.00	50p
NC35173	Sdkfz 234 2cm Schwabelfafette	£31.05	50p
NC35175	Simplyfied Pz IV Turret	£21.55	50p
NC35177	Sdkfz 251 with 2cm Flak	£26.75	50p
NC35184	Pz IV G Zimmerit Upper Hull Zimmerit	£21.60	50p
NC35185	Flak IV Prototype version 12th SS Pz Reg	£35.35	50p
NC35187	3cm Flak 103 (complete kit)	£25.90	50p
NC35188	3cm Flakvierling 103/38 Zerstoror 45	£31.05	50p
NC35190	Sdkfz 234/4 7.5cm Pak 40	£39.25	50p
NC35191	Sdkfz 234/4 7.5cm Pak7B (conversion kit)	£39.25	50p
NC35192	7.5cm Pak 40 on Cruciform	£31.05	50p
NC35195	Sdkfz 234/3 Interior Set (conversion kit)	£17.25	50p
NC35204	2 Pdr Matilda turned Metal Barrel	£4.30	50p
NC35209	Wirbelwind add on Turret Armour	£11.20	50p
NC35210	Jagd pz 38 D 7.5cm AK7B Aufklaror	£87.75	£2.00
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NC35212	Sig 22 Auf Pz 1B Bison (conversion kit)	£48.30	£1.00
NC35217	Sdkfz 251/23 with Hangelfafette	£26.30	50p
NC35218	Sdkfz 251/24 APX turret (conversion kit)	£26.30	50p
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NC35220	Waffentrager Krupp Ardu 10.5cm LFH	£102.65	£2.00
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NC35228	Sturmpanzer Brumbar for (conversion kit)	£49.60	£1.00
NC35230	Sdkfz 251 10.5 FLH (for AFV Club)	£40.95	£1.00
NC35231	Sdkfz 251 7.5cm KWK 42 (for AFV Club)	£40.95	£1.00
NC35232	Sdkfz 7 late type wooden side panels	£8.65	50p
NC35233	VK 3601 Bergeschlepper (full kit)	£102.65	£2.00
NC35235	Flak Pz 1 /w oun and trailer	£34.05	50p
NC35236	Flak Pz 1 Ammo Carrier Laube	£23.70	50p
NC35237	Jagdpanzer 38D 2cm Hanglefette (full kit)	£94.00	£2.00
NC35239	3cm Jaboschreck Auf Orille (full kit)	£36.65	50p
NC35240	Sdkfz 251 7.5cm AK 7B (conversion kit)	£19.40	50p
NC35243	VK 1601 Pz II (Alan conversion)	£25.90	£1.00
NC35244	7.5cm PAK 97/38 Auf T 26 (R) (Zuesda)	£40.95	£1.00
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NC35249	Jagdpanzer Hetzer 7.5cm L/70	£48.30	50p
NC35250	E 100 Stug	£76.75	£1.00
NC35251	VK 1602 Leopard (full kit)	£94.00	£2.00
NC35252	SP Gun Carrier with 17cm Kanone.	£169.95	50p
NC35253	Rutscher	£68.50	£1.00
NC35254	VK 7001 Lowe	£112.50	£1.00

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S2KV001	Sdkfz 11/1 3 ton halftrack	£45.00	£1.00
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S2KV003	Sdkfz 11 3 ton halftrack late cargo variant	£45.00	£1.00
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S2KV013	Sdkfz 221 2.8cm Panzer busche	£55.00	£1.00

## RESICAST

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R35112	M4A3 sandbag hull	£17.75	+50p
R35116	M4A4 Sherman DD Mk I (without screen)	£54.50	£1.00
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R35119	Assault Bridge for Churchill Tank	£53.00	£1.00
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R35161	Interior detail for Sherman M4A1 75mm	£43.25	£1.00
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R35210	Universal Carrier Wading ( for Tamiya)	£8.75	£1.00
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R35224	Sherman Bogies VVSS	£9.25	+50p
R35227	UK Ammo Boxes	£9.25	+50p
R35228	UK Cable Drums	£9.25	£1.00
R35229	Deep wading for Sherman M4A4	£9.25	+50p
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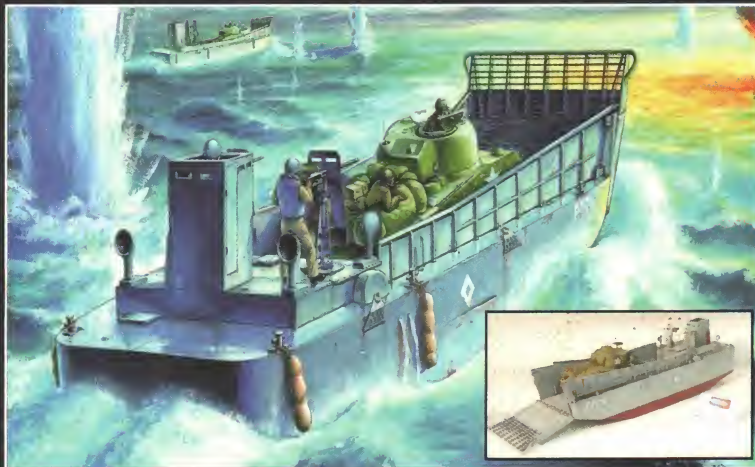
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**HBB84801**

1:48 - US M4A1 76 Tank



**HBB84817**

1:48 - LCM-3 USN Landing Craft



**HBB84802**

1:48 - US M4A1 (Mid Model)



**HBB84803**

1:48 - US M4A3 Tank



**HBB84804**

1:48 - US M4A3E8 Tank



**HBB84805**

1:48 - US M4A3 76 (w) Tank



**HBB84806**

1:48 - Russian T-34/76 1942  
Factory 112



**HBB84807**

1:48 - Russian T-34/85 1944  
Flattened Turret



**HBB84808**

1:48 - Russian T-34/76 1943  
Factory 112

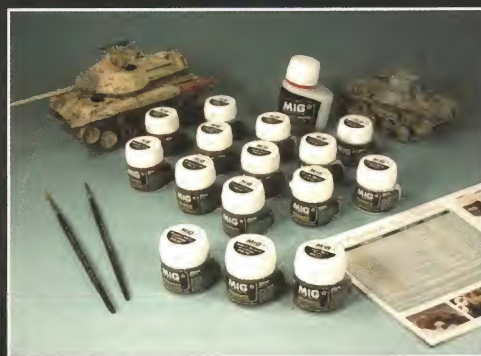


**HBB84809**

1:48 - Russian T-34/85 1944  
Angle Jointed Turret

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productions

**MIG00230** Old Rust  
**MIG00232** Dry Mud  
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1:72 - Factory Ruin



**MIG00233**

Urban Combat Set



**MIG00243**

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1:35 GAZ 61-73 4x4



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# SOVIET SU-122 TANK DESTROYER

The Editor takes quick look at Tamiya's latest 1:48 gem.

**T**amiya are really on a roll with their 1:48 range of armour at the moment, the latest being the classic WWII Soviet Tank destroyer, the Su-122. As with some of the earlier releases in this scale, Tamiya have obviously made the most of their tooling by using the lower hull and running gear from their previous T-34/76.

As usual the lower hull is a metal casting and the tracks are link and length type. These do suffer quite badly from ejector pin marks on the inner face of each link, for instance the top and bottom track runs have four pin marks on every other link and two on the remainder, all of which will really need to be filled before assembly.

The upper hull is completely new, featuring such goodies as separate drivers hatch with inner

detail, nice thin grab handles together with separate vision ports really make for a beautifully detailed little model. The gun assembly typical Tamiya, featuring clever engineering and a precision fit, the mantlet incorporates some very subtle cast texturing as well. As our sample is an early test shot with interim instructions, therefore only one decal option is given for a vehicle of an unknown unit during the battle of Kursk 1943. Hopefully more will be included with the production kits.

I decided to build the kit completely out of the box, with the idea of displaying it on Verlindens city ruin diorama base. I wanted it to be more of a painting exercise than anything else. The kit went together very well apart from the construction of the fuel tanks! In my haste I didn't look closely







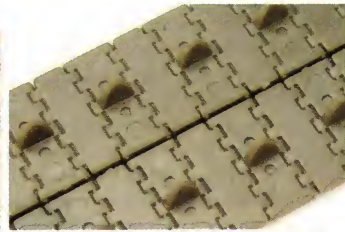
The drivers hatch comes as a separate part and can be positioned either open or closed.



subtle texture on the gun mount housing and torch cut armour plate detail are a couple of the highlights here.



Nice hollow exhausts and thin inscale engine hatch handles, that all help go towards making this an excellent model.



Lots of ejector pin marks that will require filling.

enough at the instructions and as can be seen from the build-up shots the fuel caps are on the side and not the tops as they should be.

Painting was undertaken using Vallejo Model and Model Air colours and sprayed through an Iwata HP-C plus airbrush. For the base colour the model was given a solid coat of Russian Green, this was then followed by misting on Interior green and finally a couple of drops of German Yellow to lighten this effect further.

With the basic spraying complete, I set about set about adding some damage to the finish by using a small piece of Scotchbrite and dabbing on various shades of both light and dark

green. This was then followed by an oil paint colour wash of sap green.

Final weathering was completed with Mig Productions pigments, Europe dust and Beach sand and the lastly some of Lifecolor's new Tensocrom active surface agents Oil and Smoke were mixed together to form the fuel stains running down from the auxiliary fuel tanks.

Beautifully engineered, simple to build, perfect to try your hand at this scale, the only negative point has to be the ejector pin marks, annoying but not the end of the world. ■

## Modelspec

Tamiya 1:48 Russian Tank destroyer Su-122  
Kit No. 32527

### Weathering products

Mig productions  
Europe dust  
Beach sand

### Paints

Model color Yellow Green 954  
Model air Black grey 056  
Model air Russian green 017  
Model air Interior green 010

- ☒ Beautiful fit and simple to build
- ☒ Ejector pin marks on the tracks (lots of them)

Rating ●●●●●●●○



## Chips and scratches

A quick and simple way to get random scuffs scratches and marks on to a models paint surface, is to cut off a small corner of Scotch brite pad or coarse sponge. This can then be dipped into the desired colour paint, this technique works just as well with Enamel or Acrylic paints, I tend to use Acrylic due to its fast drying time. Once the appropriate colour has been loaded onto the applicator, most of the paint will need to be removed, by repeated dabbing onto a piece of paper or the like. Once happy with the patination that is left on the paper start to work on the model.

Try to think where the main areas of wear would be, thinking of things like how and where the crew would normally climb onboard. Don't limit yourself to one colour try both darker and lighter shades of the base colour and alternate between them for a really random effect.

Lastly don't worry about making the colours too light or dark as they can be toned done with either a colour wash of misting back the base colour in very thin coat.







# WINSTON'S WONDER

**Mike Rinaldi gets stuck in to a major conversion project involving the back dating of Tamiya's MkVII with a great deal of help from International Model Asia's MkI.**

**I**n a war where technology would move forward at a tremendous pace, ultimately leaving the world in a jet powered nuclear age, the Churchill tank was an abnormality of mechanical design. Adherence to outdated tactics led the British to specify a new infantry tank design that would be armed with the latest in firepower and have armour thicker than anything else yet seen, providing the required support to advancing infantry. Considering this was drawn up in the late 1930s the end result would

prove to be far greater than the sum of its parts.

Looking like something of a leftover from the previous World War, it has endeared a sweet spot in my heart. Some guys like the mighty Tiger, some the mass-produced Sherman, others only tanks from the 'modern' eras, me I like the tough, persevering underdog that was never supposed to be a success and ended up proving the critics wrong - the Churchill.

In the world of 1:35 armour there has only been one conventional

plastic kit from which to represent this tank and that is Tamiya's venerable Mk VII. Until now that is. Those of us interested in such things already know about Cromwell's recent line of full resin beauties (the MkIII was reviewed in issue 116 of sister magazine TMMI), but those of you that wish to pursue modifying the Tamiya kit into other variants have a new source as well. International Models Asia (IMA) from Hong Kong is a small kit maker that is currently producing a multitude of resin conversions for this kit. I have

already built a number of them and find these conversions to be some of the nicest on the market. Anybody familiar with building resin kits knows the hassle of removing pour plugs, especially large ones. Not a whole of fun. IMA conversions arrive almost plug free. Big smile. The castings are also superbly done without any warping and just the tiniest of an air bubble to fill here and there. They understand how resin shrinks and the fit to the plastic parts is first rate so the building process is very straightforward - another big smile.





The kit featured in this article is what is referred to as a Churchill Mk I, Reworked (Italy) with twin 3" howitzers. These very rare variants are actually a field-modified experiment that proved quite useful. Only a handful was converted, probably no more than a dozen or so. In early 1943 at the end of the North African campaign in Tunisia, Captain Olgin, the REME commander of the 48th RTR removed the 2-pounder main gun from the turret and replaced it with a second 3" howitzer identical to the one mounted in the lower hull. This was done as a course of action to rectify shortcomings in the 2pdr firing proper HE rounds and the limited elevation of the hull mounted 3" gun. Being that HE ammo was a higher priority in this part of the war, this simple solution provided the Mk I with a much greater ability to give direct fire support against dug-in AT guns and other soft targets.

#### BACKDATING

IMA provides all that is required to backdate the MkVII into a Reworked Mk I. Construction is easy enough. Front hull pieces replace those removed from the plastic kit, and the new side panels and escape hatches find their way onto their appropriate places. The rest is just following the Tamiya

instructions as you go. Especially nice is the replacement turret. Cast solid, (there is room in the hatches for half-figures), with excellent surface texture that captures the look of the early style turret perfectly. My only alteration to this recipe was to add some minor battle damage just below the commander's station, which accounts for that missing half of the hatch. Once everything was in order, I primed the entire model with Tamiya's Fine Surface Primer.

For the basecoat on this model I used a layered system of colors to create the final paintjob. Being that a combat tank is exposed to infinite weathering variables that cause havoc to its camouflage I do not like to adhere to strict government paint specifications.

My only guideline is that I wanted this model to be in the Khaki Brown tone seen earlier in the war on British vehicles. The first layer is an application of Vallejo's Model Air Hemp. I lightly misted this over the whole model to get a soft overall coverage, and then I went back and concentrated this color into all of the various corners, intersections, etc. One thing you notice right away when painting a Churchill is that the surface is very busy with lots of detail, especially with the fenders mounted. So take your time, ▶



Replacing the turret mounted 2 pounder gun with a second 3" howitzer certainly gave these re-worked Churchill Mk I's a much needed boost for their intended infantry support role during the Italian campaign.



◀ as it is slow going. Once I had this color where I wanted it I moved onto the next layer. Switching to Lifecolor paints, I use their Khaki Brown and spray inside the borders of the previous layer, making soft transitions between the colours and making sure to leave the previous layer somewhat exposed. After this layer I use a highly thinned mixture of Olive Drab and Khaki Brown and spray this into random areas and joints to add some variety. The last layer is to add a few drops of white in the Khaki Brown and apply this to the more exposed upper surfaces of the model enhancing the already patchwork colors previously applied. In the end you have a nicely worn single color paint job that already shows some signs of life.

#### HOW ABOUT SOME CHIPS?

There is precious little reference on this specialized version and only one source that really had anything to say about it (David Fletcher's 'Mr. Churchill Tank'). But what I did find was just what I needed. There is a short description of unit strength prior to them being sent into Italy after the invasion of Sicily. I was particularly interested in the part about one unit having a non-combat worthy tank for training purposes. That was all I needed to get my mind going. I imagined a worn out and desolate Churchill resting quietly behind some rundown maintenance depot, its glory days long behind it. Armed with this picture in my head, I knew I had to abuse the paintjob to achieve this image. Utilizing the chipping technique I used on the Stug model (TMMI Issue 116),

I recreated the chips and scratches in exactly the same manner.

I have an old dishwashing scouring pad with short bristles on one side and cut a small piece from the corner to use as a 'brush'. Using Tamiya's NATO Black, I dipped the bristle side into the paint, dabbed it onto a paper towel to remove the excess and then went at it. Working one area at a time, I applied the chips in a very organized 'randomness' concentrating on areas of excessive wear from the crew or any part that would require a lot of climbing about. The suspension was also properly attended to since life in Tunisia is a rocky affair. As the paint dries on the pad, it has the ability to leave very fine scratches that would be near impossible to replicate with a brush and this gives the scratches a superb realistic look to them.

At this point in the process, it takes some faith to see it through. Obviously it is horrible looking prior to any weathering, so stand firm. I learned this with the Stug. It is also time to apply some markings. With so few photo references available and hardly any proper decals on the market for these tanks I decided to just make them up and they are not intended to represent any actual vehicle. I kept it simple and using Prismacolor pencils, I wrote the markings directly onto the surface. I love the British style of adding tank names to the side so I used the original spelling of Hektor to represent the powerful yet tragic figure from Greek mythology (the crew was an ambitious lot). This process adds a nice touch of character to the model and can be given some ▶



Graphite powders rubbed over the edges and corners help to give an incredibly realistic worn metallic look to the finished model.





The combination of Tamiya's Churchill Mk 7 base kit and the IMA Mk I conversion along with the obvious skill of the author have turned Winston's wonder into a real winner.



#### Tech Tip!

By using oil paints thinned down with Humbrol enamel thinners very subtle streaking and staining can be added to the horizontal or vertical surfaces to simulate rust, rain, oil or fuel. This effect works best over acrylic base colours as the enamel thinners will have no adverse effect.



The stowage has been treated with as much care during the painting as the actual model itself. All too often stowage is a rushed after thought. Note the realistic burnt off paint effect on the heat shielding behind the exhaust outlets.





With all the construction completed the model was given a coat of Tamiya Fine Surface Primer prior to applying the actual camouflages, at this point it is always good to check for imperfections.



With the base colour in place the author now has a blank canvas on which to start the weathering process to really bring this model to life, which is where the fun begins.



At this point the model has now received mottled patches of khaki brown mixed with white to fade the base colour, along with some paint chipping over areas that would be prone to the most wear.



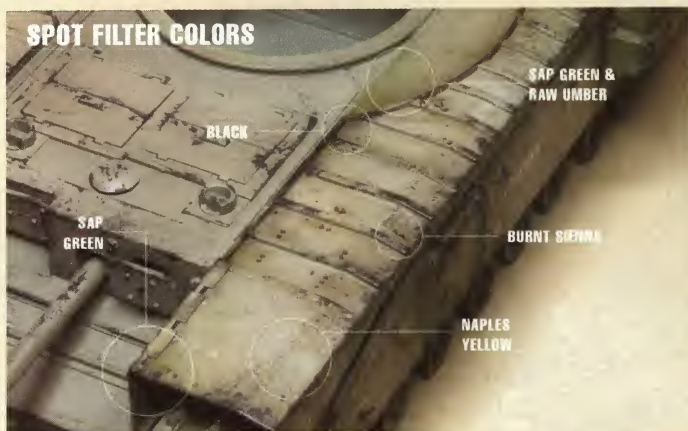
The dark chipping effect was achieved by dabbing Tamiya NATO Black with the aid of an old dishwashing scouring pad, this effect will be toned down with washes and filters.



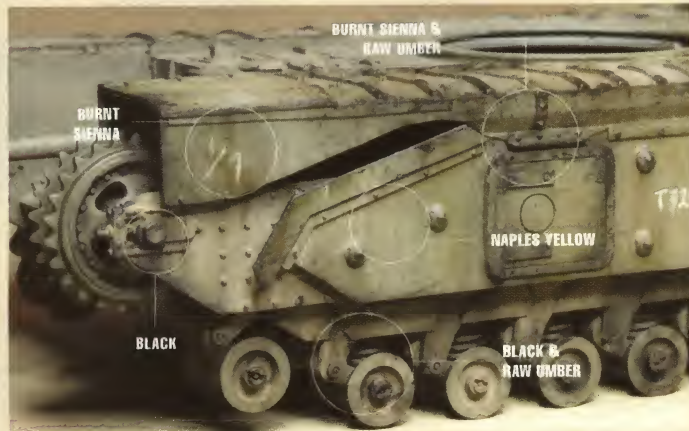
Humbrol Midstone has now been airbrushed on to soften the contrast between the chipping and the base camouflage colour.



All the subtle tonal variations are apparent in this shot. Who said plain green camouflage schemes were boring. With all these weathering techniques in place the model really comes to life.



In these bottom two photos the author has circled the areas to highlight where specific filters and washers have been applied and the oil paints that have been used.







◀ leeway in lieu of the lack of other more accurate decals.

The exhaust system was also given a coating of the same two-stage rusting "paint" that I used on my 1/48 Hetzer. The shovels on the rear deck were appropriately painted as well. Now the model is ready to get dirty, so the first weathering step is to give the model a very light filter of Humbrol Midstone, which I like to airbrush on. This helps to cut the contrast down between the chips, the paintjob and the markings. Next I give the lower surfaces a thin layer of Mig Pigments, especially around the suspension. Again using a similar idea to the process on my Hetzer, this helped enhance those oil stains and streaks applied next.

#### FILTERS

Now the real fun begins. It has been a lot of work to get to this point and the progress is slow with the Churchill. Appropriate I suppose. It is time to apply the spot filters (washes), or 'fusing' as the Spanish modellers have come to call it recently. I alluded to this technique in my previous articles but this model demanded proper use of the method so I will do my best to give a decent explanation. I use Winsor Newton oil paints with Humbrol thinner exclusively. The main reason is that this combo has tremendous blending abilities and can be thinned down to near invisibility. Also since my base paints are acrylic the Humbrol

thinner will not react with them. Working in small sections at a time using a small round brush, I apply tiny dots of various oil paints (brown, black, yellow, green, etc.) in a random pattern, usually focused on the upper edge of the surfaces. Then using the edge of a small flat brush that is slightly damp with thinner, I drag the colours in the appropriate direction until they almost disappear to the eye, continually cleaning the brush as I go. When dry these spot filters (washes) add a whole new world of subtle colour shifts to the basecoat. I do this over the entire model, never rushing it and constantly changing the colors to keep it interesting. Manipulated properly they can give fantastic rust or rain streaks and help to provide the final touch to faded paint when using lighter colours such as white or yellow.

This method is repeated until I am happy with the final results and is the real trick to getting a lot of depth in the finish. I can take up to a few days or weeks to complete the entire process depending on how intricate the subject is. Patience is the key and always remember the history of the vehicle and try to imagine how it arrived at the point of your presentation.

#### STOWAGE AND TRACKS

With the painting and weathering nearly complete it is time to add the tracks and final details. Friulmodel makes a fantastic set of late model tracks for the Churchill and I decided to use them here because the late-style tracks points to the fact that this model is a Reworked Mk I. The process of 'painting' them is quite simple. I first assemble both runs and then give them two 5-10 minute soakings in Blacken-it (a chemical weathering solution) letting them dry overnight in between. After they have dried thoroughly I add some random oil washes and pigments to get the final color seen here. A light sanding with steel wool to bring out the worn metal finishes them off prior to their final mounting.

The old ammo boxes and oilcans on the engine covers were pre-painted in various shades of greens and browns and heavily weathered to give them a very aged look. Their placement was kept haphazard to look like they have been sitting back there for months, getting more worn out by the day. A heavy chain, the extra early-style plate tracks and the canvas bedroll all add to the untold story, each with its own part to play. To finish the model I apply a final light layer of pigments and hit the worn metal areas with some graphite.

#### FINAL THOUGHTS

The Churchill tank is a fascinating piece of armour history and provides a beautiful canvas upon which to apply all of the latest painting and weathering techniques. With the IMA resin conversions for the Tamiya offering and Cromwell's new series of resin kits readily available, it is a good time to be able to model literally any variant of this tank. Who knows we might even see a newly tooled plastic Churchill kit before too long. Wishful thinking maybe, but this is one modeller that will keep building as many as possible in support of this great vehicle. ■

#### Modelspec

International model Asia Churchill Mk I conversion  
Kit No. 35001

#### Materials

Tamiya Churchill Mk 7 (Kit No.35210)  
Friulmodel Late Churchill tracks ALT 60  
(www.historexagents.com)

#### Paints used

Tamiya;  
Fine Surface Primer, NATO Black XF69  
Lifecolor;  
Khaki Brown UA142, Olive Drab UA 005  
Vallejo,  
Model Air Hemp 023  
Humbrol;  
Mid stone 84

#### Weathering materials

Various Mig productions Pigments.  
Various Prismacolor pencils.

- ☒ The IMA beautifully cast replacement turret.
- ☒ Not really a beginners project.

#### Available from

Kit - All good model shops  
Tracks - Historex (www.historexagents.com)  
Materials -  
The Airbrush Company (www.airbrushes.com),  
Cammet (01544 388514),  
Creative Models (www.creativemodels.co.uk)

Rating ●●●●●●●●●●











# THE DIORAMA IN THE FIRING LINE

To complete the story on the Sherman Firefly upgrade featured last issue, **John Murphy** describes the construction of a diorama for the model.

**I**t's funny how much a concept can differ from what you end up with, and this Normandy diorama is a classic example. Originally I was going to use the Custom Dioramics Garage and have a small party of Royal Engineers repairing some artillery damage to the road, with the Sherman Firefly being directed around the crater. But the more I sat and stared at it, the more I kept thinking it didn't seem to look right. No matter how much I moved all the bits around it didn't tell the story I wanted it to. For a while I put it on hold disappointed that my original concept was not as good as I had imagined it.

Fortunately a while later I received the Custom Dioramics Brick Town house from VLS at about the same time I received a box of goodies from Dragon Models including the British infantry set and the ultra detailed Pak40 75mm anti tank gun.

## CONSTRUCTION

To start the groundwork I first cut out two pieces of 40mm thick expanded polystyrene sheet (EPS). These were then stacked on top of each other and glued to a 16X13.5 inch MDF baseboard with PVA wood glue. Edging pieces were then made up from very thin plywood cut to fit and again glued

with more PVA, masking tape was used to keep everything in place until the glue had set firmly.

The Custom Dioramics Brick Town House is cast in plaster with a door and tiled roof section produced in resin. Like most plaster cast buildings they generally only feature detailing on one face. So before any assembly could take place I had to first sand the non-detailed inner wall parts smooth, then scribe on some detail of my own in the way of cracked plaster and some brickwork. The next step was to assemble the plaster sections, for this I use cyano to tack the parts together then fill in the gaps with PVA. ►





Left to Right; Shows the progression of the painting, detailing and weathering to the interior of the Custom Dioramic Town brick house. As with most plaster cast buildings available the interiors are devoid of any detail, which gives the modeller a blank canvas to work with. In this case a only a basic flooring and skirting boards have been fitted to the interior walls, the wallpaper came from a dolls house shop and the rug is from Dio Art available from Accurate Armour.

◀ I believe this technique is used in the construction of radio-controlled aircraft made from balsa wood.

The floor was constructed from thin strips of basswood and a sheet of 40thou plastic card formed the ceiling of the ground floor. The basswood and plastic card combination was also used to make up the window and doorframes. As I mentioned earlier Custom Dioramics include a nicely detailed and well cast resin roof section, section complete with tiles, once I had fixed this in place I thought it looked a bit neat so decided to and more random. Staying with

the exterior VLS had kindly sent a selection of drainpipe fittings and their guttering section accessory packs, and together with some plastic tubing really helped bring some interest to the exterior with out going down the posters and signs route.

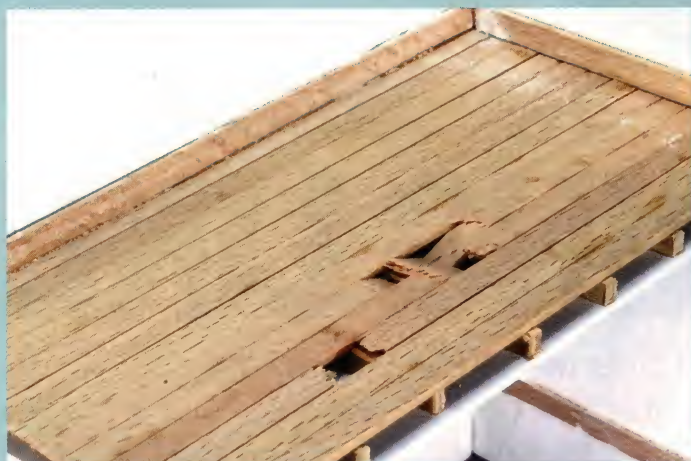
With the basic detailing of the house complete, the whole thing was given a coat of acrylic grey car primer to seal the plaster and highlight any problems, i.e. glue marks and air bubbles etc. Unusually for me virtually all the painting was completed without an airbrush and instead using the

good old paintbrush and Vallejo Model colour acrylic paints.

Firstly the exterior walls were washed with a pale sand grey thinned heavily with water, I wanted this colour to flow into all the brickwork to represent the mortar between the bricks. To paint the bricks I simply dry-brushed the bricks with different shades of red brown using a large flat brush, it does take a few coats to get an even finish. But I think it works pretty well, just bare in mind the brush shouldn't be loaded to heavily with paint and the acrylics do dry much quicker than enamels.

## GROUNDWORK

At the same time as I was underway with construction of the building, I set about putting the roadway and building foundation on to the base. The first thing I did was to mark out the exact position of the building and garden wall. Once this was completed I laid out the Verlinden cobblestone road sections, making sure I had enough room for the tank and the crater. The road sections were carefully cut to size and then glued onto the expanded polystyrene using PVA glue. To get a really good bond I weighted down the road sections



The flooring and skirting boards were made up from real Basswood cut to length and fixed with PVA glue. The snapped boards will represent where larger pieces of brickwork have crashed down onto them.



The hardest part of simulating rubble is making it look loose and not all one solid lump, the introduction of weathering powders and pigments helps this tremendously.



The main roof section is included with the Custom Dioramics building. Only requiring some extra tiles made from plastic card to finish off



The mirror was made using a piece of mirrored acetate and fixed to a resin frame, a little ironic detail is the broom which has it's work cut out to clean the mess up outside!





Left to Right; The exterior of the town house is taking shape, first of all showing the basic construction complete including the window frames and guttering. This is followed by painting using both brush and airbrush, at the basic painting stage the author chose to change the colour of the window frames from blue to white. The last in the sequence we can see how the colours have been subdued by the washes and dry-brushing.

with some old heavy books and left it overnight to set.

With the road sections firmly attached, I cut out some thinner expanded polystyrene tiles to build up the height of the flooring to match the height of the doorstep of the ground floor room.

The next task was to create the crater below the damaged Verlinden cobbles section. To start with I picked out the EPS with my fingers, once I was happy with the basic hole I then lined it with household ready mixed wall filler. Whilst this was still wet thinned PVA glue was brushed on and

sprinkled with fine sand and dried ground-up soil from the garden. Lastly while the filler was still drying I inserted a length of brass tube that I had roughed up one end to simulate a broken sewer pipe. I only really decided to add the pipe when I noticed the drain pipe and drain grating on the edge of the road all lined up, I know it is a bit of a cliché but it adds helps liven up a dead space.

This again was left to dry fully, PVA is very versatile but its down side is the long setting time which means lots of waiting, when all I really want to do is get on with it!

The basic groundwork was finished by applying a thin coat of filler to the area that was going to be covered in grass. Again while this was still wet diluted PVA was brushed on and more fine sand and ground-up soil was sprinkled on top. This was followed once dry with a further coat of PVA and a generous covering of Heiki static grass.

With all the basics in place painting could begin. First off I must mention that all painting was completed with either Vallejo paints for any airbrush work and Humbrol enamels for the grassed area.

To start with the cobblestones were sprayed in Panzer grey, this was followed by airbrushing all the dirt and grass areas in 880 Khaki grey to form a nice neutral base for the grass to stop any bare plaster glaring through.

Dry-brushing the grass was undertaken with an initial coat Humbrol 151 Interior green, then progressively lightened with 83 Dark Yellow and 154 Insignia yellow. I deliberately kept the grass colours vibrant to represent lush green grass that had been well watered by a very wet June back in 1944. ►



The bed is from Verlinden's bedroom furniture set, the roofing sections were made from thin plastic strip and card and the boarding and planks were made using thin Plywood and Balsa strip.



The author has combined elements from several different companies to give the undamaged ground floor the look of a study. The only damage being some loose plaster and dust falling from the ceiling.

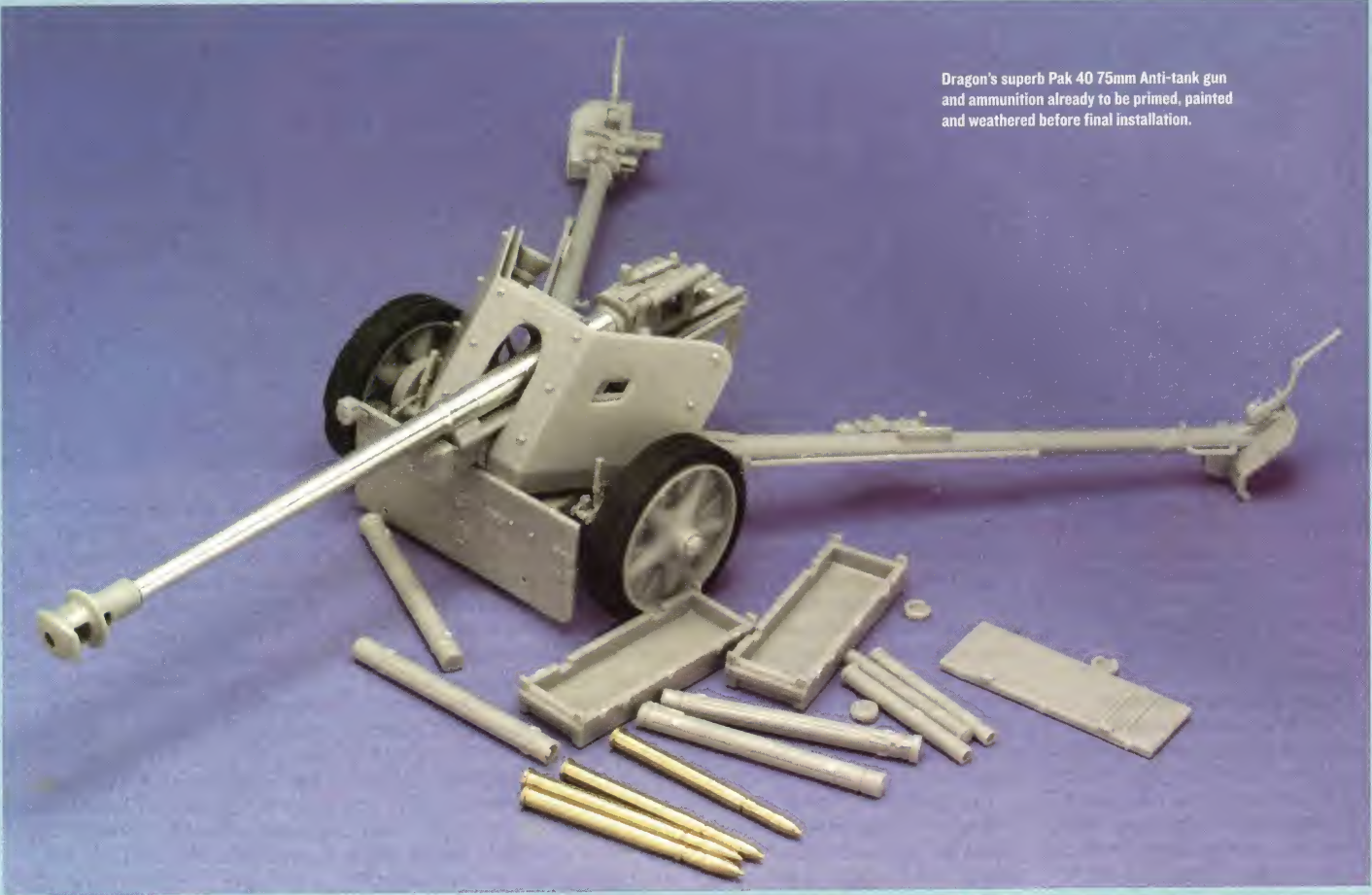


The verlinden sink looks very realistic under a coat of Gloss white and a sprinkling of brick dust coloured pigments.



The basic diorama is now complete including all weathering all that is needed now is to add the rubble vehicles and figures.





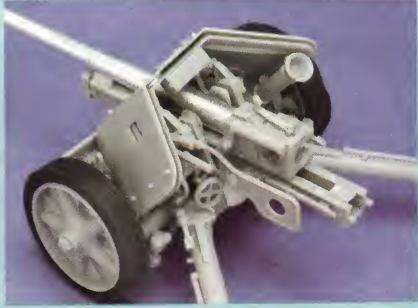
Dragon's superb Pak 40 75mm Anti-tank gun and ammunition already to be primed, painted and weathered before final installation.



Three styles of wheels and muzzle brakes are included in the kit but unfortunately no mention is made in the instructions as to which wheels would most commonly be seen with which muzzle brake.



With just the basic colours in place the Pak 40 looks very bright and garish, this will be toned down considerably once the weathering has been completed.



Dragon even include two sets of tyres, one set has new tread and the other has damaged and worn ones, a very thoughtful inclusion on Dragons part.







#### Tech Tip!

Oil paints are perfect for artificially adding depth to creases in uniforms, but care must be taken to use complimentary shades. Dark browns and blacks tend to be too contrasty on their own.

With the basic painting completed various Mig Productions pigments were liberally applied to give that realistic finish as only pigments can.

#### DRAGON PAK 40

As the Pak 40 was going to be the secondary space filler I really didn't want to spend too much time on extra detailing. Fortunately these new Pak 40's from Dragon are so well detailed I didn't need to add any extras at all.

To be honest in an ironic way I wish I had used the Tamiya Pak 40, which is much simpler to build and very basic by comparison. Please don't get me wrong there is absolutely nothing wrong with the Dragon version, it is absolutely stunning and is a real testament to how injection moulding has progressed in recent years. I just didn't realise what an involved build it would be, as I only wanted something quick and simple to fill an empty space on my diorama.

The Pak 40 was painted in an a simple mottled scheme, using Vallejo 806 German yellow for the base colour and For the mottled colours I used Vallejo 818 Red leather and 922 USA Uniform Green. These were thinned heavily to try and get a very soft spray without too much speckling. It wasn't perfect but once a colour wash and some weathering had been applied it all came together.

#### FIGURES

Since I was on a roll using Dragon products why not finish this project by populating with one of their

figure sets. The set used was the British Infantry (Normandy 1944) this set was perfect for my needs. The set depicts an Infantry squad cautiously advancing. I used four of the six figures from this set, the remaining figure was Ultracast's British/Canadian Infantryman.

The Dragon figures were built up as per the instructions, but some of the webbing equipment was swapped for parts from the Tamiya British Infantry set. I think they are slightly better tooled. I am the first to admit I'm no figure painter, my figures always tend to be rushed as I always put off their painting to the very end, when I've run out time and my interest has moved onto the next project.

To paint them I base coated them all in Vallejo English Uniform brown, which was then followed by a light misting of Vallejo's Model Air, Middle Stone sprayed directly from above with the intention that this colour only settled on the tops of creases etc, to start creating highlights for the shading effect.

With the basic airbrushing complete the figures were given a colour wash of raw umber and yellow ochre thinned with white spirits. The figures were then left to dry overnight before the final dry-brushing was completed again using oils. To speed this process I have started to use Windsor & Newton Alkyd oils, these are fast drying which is perfect when I'm leaving it all to the last minute as usual.

Now I was reasonable happy with the uniforms I could start on the flesh areas, again using Vallejo



Dragon's British WWII figure set were basically built from the box with only minor changes to some of their webbing, which included swapping some of the entrenching tools and pouches with ones from the Tamiya British figure set. The green on the joints is simply Squadron Green Putty thinned with Liquid Poly and flowed into the joints to fill them.





Verlinden's Park wall section has been sprayed and shaded with acrylics, followed by oil paint washes for the rust stains.



The drain hole cover was first painted in Vallejo dark brown, followed by wash of Mig Productions pigments thinned with white spirits. Then finally some graphite powder was applied to the raised detail with a finger tip.



The VLS park bench helps to add that human touch to the scene, where only a few days ago the owners of the house may have been sat enjoying a quite summer day!



The broken sewer pipe helps to add interest to quite corner of the diorama, the rat poking his head out of the pipe is from Plus Models. the trickling water was made from clear plastic stretched sprue, acrylic gel medium and Humbrol gloss cote







# YELLOW ROSE OF NORWAY

Jimmy Ngo describes the creation of this wrecked and recovered Raupenschlepper Ost, or RSO, and the story behind its creation...



**W**hen first released almost 30 years ago, this little kit raised the bar for all other model makers and forced the big names in the business to improve the quality of their moulds. By today's standards it needs a lot of good will and aftermarket products to breathe life into this model. In 1978 it was one of the first kits a young dude from Vienna, Austria burned his pocket money for. "I was instantly captivated by the look of that ugly duckling", Werner Geier recalls. Obviously he was impressed quite deeply, as- despite having stopped modelling long ago, he today runs the largest private archive on the Raupenschlepper Ost. He has also restored a couple of what was once the Wehrmacht's most improvised tracked carrier. "I should have stuck with 1:35, there are less PE sets in 1/1 and much more headaches" says Geier with a wry smile.

Nevertheless he recently added another RSO to his motor pool. It had been found and salvaged in Norway by Erik Jostad, a local historian and collector. Even today, Norway is an outdoor museum of WW2 material. Norway had a large and well equipped German occupation force and practically all of the installations and equipment survived intact until the end of war, many vehicles were spared from the usual frenzy of destruction and saw use with the Norwegian Army or local farmers for decades after the war. Although this vehicle was missing vital components such as axles, tracks, engine parts, fuel tank, driveshaft, cargo bed and cab interiors, it still was an extraordinary find. Large areas of the original tan colour had been preserved and even a tactical sign for towed artillery was still in place. The tan with a stark yellowish hue is a field overpaint, as the dark grey this RSO had been delivered in from the factory can be spotted underneath.

Closer inspection revealed that the Steyr designed vehicle had been built in license by Auto-Union at their Siegmar-Schoenau plant in early 1943, shortly before by OKW order the standard colour of Wehrmacht vehicles was switched from field grey to dark yellow. As Mr. Geier told me, the RSO's condition gave him many sleepless nights, not because he didn't know how to repair that battered warhorse, but he considered that stripping the original paint would take away all the magic from that vehicle, would ruin its value as a time capsule. While the methods of preservation were still undecided, we started this project. "Sometimes a detour can be

useful" Mr. Geier stated. And as many briefing emails criss-crossed between Austria and Singapore and the Norwegian wreck was shrunk to 1:35, the more the certainty grew what this RSO's future in 1:1 was going to be; it will be preserved as found, as a true battlefield relic.

### CONSTRUCTION

Modelling a wreck can have its merits, due to the skeletal appearance of the original only chassis, cabin and running gear from the former Peerless, later Italeri and now Tamiya kit (item No.227) needed to be constructed. Therefore hardly any aftermarket material was necessary, only the CMK RSO engine upgrade set (item No.3013), and a gearbox from Tamiya's Steyr 1500A (item No.35225) were brought in, as the RSO's design is largely based on components from the 1500A truck. The big challenge of this project was going to be the badly dented and bullet riddled cabin...

### CHASSIS

The chassis of the kit is greatly simplified, almost toylike. Most probably the kit designers never had the chance to take a look into an original chassis and were happy to cover the whole mess with a cargo bed. I started with using plastic card for the chassis, however it didn't produce the result we desired. Opposed to the bulky, tank-like chassis of the Russian CT3-5 tractor the RSO drew its design from, the Raupenschlepper Ost's chassis is lightweight, almost fragile, a watertight tub structure with aeroplane-like reinforcement ribs. Soon we replaced it with copper sheets which seemed perfect in scale.

I cemented the outer chassis parts with newly scratched ribs inside the tub. The beadings alongside the chassis were created using the original kit moulding pattern. Once completed, the 'V' shaped structure to support the tail end (and the RSO's towing capacity) was built and secured with super glue.

Extra details were added to the axle mounts and the rather simplified suspension with plastic card and a resin bolts and nuts set. All wheels were fixed only after completion of weathering.

### CABIN

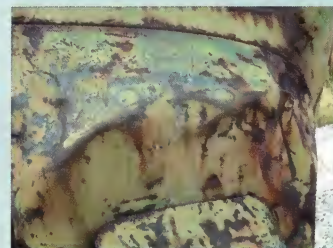
In order to reproduce an accurate wreck appearance for this RSO, both driver roof and front chassis were cut and replaced with copper sheets. All damages and dents were created using with copper material. Another layer of copper



At first sight not the grandest of modelling subjects to undertake, but as the author has shown with some imagination a 30 year old kit has been turned into a masterpiece.



This photo give an indication of how closely the model mirrors the full size rust bucket, right down to the bullet holes and faded paint.



Weathering at its most extreme and one of the most difficult painting techniques to master.

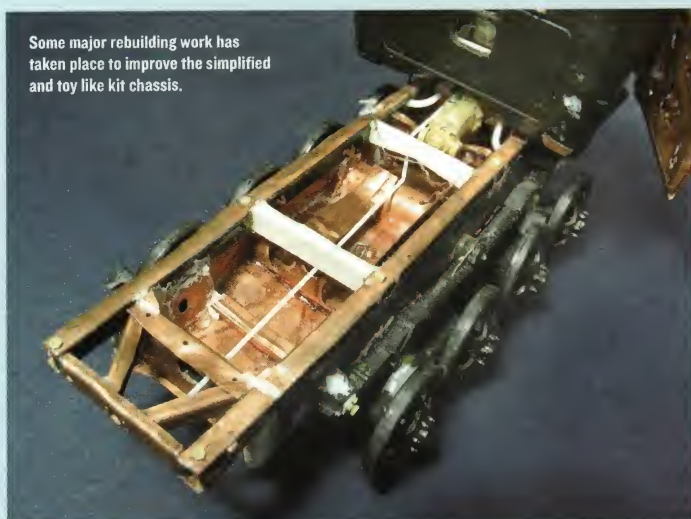


An interesting study showing how the chassis and wheels is almost completely devoid of paint compared to the cab back and sides.



Getting rust right isn't as easy as it would seem. Rust takes on a number of textures and shades from bright orange to almost black. Also of interest is the Aluminium cylinder parts that have oxidised to white.





Some major rebuilding work has taken place to improve the simplified and toy like kit chassis.



Notice how the author has seamlessly blended the kit cab sections with the battered copper pieces.



In this view it is obvious how much the author has had to recreate from scratch.



With all this wonderful work on display it's almost a shame to cover it in a layer of paint!



The battered engine combines parts from Tamiya, CMK and scratch built items.



The battered doors were faithfully recreated in copper sheet using the kit parts as a template.



Copper is the perfect medium for replicating damaged sheet metal parts.

sheet was used to further detail the sandwich structure of the cabin and give the window frame some depth.

## ENGINE SET

The CMK resin engine set were used together with Tamiya's Steyr 1500A one (item No.35225) to reproduce the rather sorry state of the wreck's powerplant. First, I cut off both top and centre parts of the CMK resin engine set, all piping was scratch built using plastic sprue and modified Tamiya engine parts. Next, plastic rods were used to manufacture the support frame for the driver's cabin.

## THE DOORS

So far it had been a smooth and easy construction, but I froze when I had a look at the reference photo of the complicated stampings of the door-insides. not enough, they were bent and full of bullet holes. I realised this was going to be tough. I studied the reference material and also original blue prints Mr. Geier had sent me. I decided to assemble these doors according to the setup of the actual vehicle. It started with using both plastic model doors provided by kit as mould for the copper replacements. With two pieces of copper, the intricate stamped inner door sheets were cut and constructed. I folded both pieces of copper sheet doors over each other and cut it into correct size. All bullet holes were punched before folding it, hinges were also created using copper plates and wires. Doors were check and tested it workable ability once hinges completed. Finally chassis, engine set and cabin were married and cemented.

## PAINTING AND WEATHERING

In the whole painting and weathering process, the usual basic steps were applied, from spraying, chipping and oil paint filtering

(washes). Rust painting was the one that required the most effort and time. First, Gunze Sangyo Acrylics German Grey (Mr. Color No.40) were applied with airbrush as base colour, followed by a mixture of dark yellow (Dark Yellow No.39, Flat White No.62) and also mixture of red brown (Red Brown No.41, Red No.108) as rust stains. Next, Cadmium Yellow oil paint (Brand; Winsor & Newton) were used for filtering on a few areas on the cabin, and also the chassis with a fine brush. Vallejo Acrylic Red Brown (042) were used to paint all the deep streaks of rust. Once I completed all rust chipping jobs, Vallejo Acrylic Vermilion (947) and Flat Yellow (953) were used to mix in various rust colour tones to achieve the lovely bouquet of oxidation that was slowly corroding Mr. Geier's pet..

Photographic refs showed the presence of uncorroded areas besides the surface rust. Vallejo Acrylic Intense Blue (925) were once again used to further simulate a raw steel finish. Once completed all weathering and painting jobs, we decided to add all the mud and grease. As the RSO had been in the open for many years, plants had started to grow in the tub and believe it or not, even a bush with delicious blueberries was there. As a salute to our messy Norwegian friends some local scale newspaper, shopping bag and also an oil can was added. A few pigments for the final makeup and the yellow rose of Norway was in full bloom. ■

## Acknowledgements

I'd like to thank God for this in order for me to share with all modellers in Model Military International magazine. Thanks to my lovely wife May Chew, my mother Catherine Ding, friend, Mr. Werner Geier and also my great pal Adam Wilder.











# GONE FISHIN'

Belarus in the summer of 1941, an anti-tank detachment of the 293rd Tank Destroyer Battalion takes advantage of a lull in the fighting. As they do so, an MG34 gun team move across their position to provide flank protection... **Kev Smith** creates an imaginative diorama from this classic Tamiya kit.





**A**s Germany mobilized its military, the Wehrmacht's weapons department began transforming civilian vehicles into military service. One light truck that was selected, was the Krupp L2H43, popularly known as the 'Protze' (Boxer) because of its air-cooled horizontally opposed engine. The vehicle featured unique 6x4 independent suspension, with the rear four wheels driven. Capable of speeds up to 70km/h, the Krupp Protze KFZ69 was designed to tow a 3.7cm PaK 35/36 anti-tank gun with one driver a five-man gun crew and stowage for ammunition. From the start of WW2, the Krupp Protze Kfz.69 was employed as standard equipment in anti-tank artillery divisions in France, Poland, the Balkans and Russia.

#### TAMIYA KRUPP PROTZE KFZ69 3.7 CM PAK

Before proceeding with the construction, a brief description of the model used. The Krupp Protze is a make-over of the 1970s kit with a new rear seat assembly and a new set of crew figures. The 3.7cm Pak is the original kit including the ammunition boxes, a shaped charge projectile and a selection of full rounds and empty shell cases. The ease of construction is brilliant with no problems, and built straight from the box will produce a first class model. However I did incorporate one or two alterations.

#### PROTZE CONSTRUCTION

Assembly started with the dash/bonnet area. There should be two grab handles on the dashboard, one for the driver and one for the commander/passenger, and small holes were drilled into the kit part, two per handle. The handles were fabricated from telephone wire after stripping off the insulation, and to straighten out any kinks in the wire it was rolled under a steel ruler on a flat surface. The

new handles were then carefully inserted into the holes. The windscreen was left off until the very end and installed only when all the painting and weathering had been completed.

Next the bonnet received some attention - this is a one piece mould and could be improved. Using the kit part as a template and referring to photographs, I scratchbuilt a new one from aluminum printers plate which is very thin and malleable, and perfect for this sort of job. Once I was happy with the new bonnet I simply glued this in place of the original and all that was then left to do was to add some catches from plastic card and thin wire. A support frame for the windscreen was added to the bonnet, also made from aluminium sheet. Some rivets finished the bonnet off nicely.

#### IN THE DRIVING SEAT

The next stage was the drivers seat and crew area, there is a grab handle that runs the width of the bulkhead which separates the driver from the crew in the back this was replaced using the same method previously described. Turning my attention to the two shovels that are stowed on the same bulkhead, both blades were replaced with printer's tin. The rest of the vehicle was constructed from the box with the exception of tool clamps from the Eduard set (TP 027) for the two picks on top of the ammunition lockers, and some straps added to the oil can, also from Eduard (TP027) the weapons had slings and sling swivels added made from Tamiya tape and thin wire.

#### OFF ROAD

I wanted to show the Krupp's long travel suspension at work when placed on the diorama, and to try and achieve this I off set the rear axles. I hope this captures the independent suspension and gives the feeling of being off road.







3.7 CM PAK 35/36 ANTI-TANK GUN

I started with the gun/breech assembly which went together well, although I did decide to replace the elevation and traverse wheels and handles as these were rather on the heavy side. I scratchbuilt these using telephone wire for the shafts, and plastic discs made with a punch and die set for the wheels, the handles were made from plastic rod cut to length. Having done this, the next logical step was to work on the gun shield itself. I did only intend to do small modifications to the kit, but from the start I did think that the

shield was too thick, so after some thought I decided to scratchbuild a new one. Again, using the kit part as a template, I traced around the outside then carefully cut this out and cleaned up the edges.

Using my references and the kit part, I marked out all the rivet locations. The shield has wings that protect the crew and to reproduce this I scored lines on the inside of the shield, taking care not to cut right through the plastic card. Liquid Poly was run into these cuts and the shield was clamped and left to dry. Whilst this was drying, I used the time to punch out more

aluminium rivets, stuck on by applying a small drop of Liquid Poly using an old 'O' paintbrush.

On to the trail arms - these are okay until the spades are attached. The grab handles were too heavy, and were replaced with wire and then... Yes, more rivets! This was by far the most time consuming part, but the finished effect is worth it. These rivets are too small to be made with the punch and die set, so I used a drill bit reversed in my pin vice and pushed it into the aluminium foil, supported on a hard pencil rubber to produce small rivets. Finally, the shovel

handles were replaced with wire, as were the ranging poles. Two straps were added from an Eduard set to secure them to the model.

THE KRUPPS OF THE MATTER

For ease of painting I left the Krupp in sub-assemblies, consisting of the drivers area, rear seats, and the bonnet/windscreen assembly. First, I undercoated the model with grey car primer which was then left overnight to dry. Tamiya XF63 German Grey was lightly sprayed over the vehicle and the PaK 3.7cm, and this was gradually lightened using Tamiya XF66



The machine gun team were converted using Dragon legs and torsos with Tamiya arms and resin heads.



Verlinden's bathing figure looks like he's enjoying his soak!



By using a simple cloud patterned background card from a stationary store, it has helped create this atmospheric shot.



Light Grey (sorry I can't give the ratios I just do it as I go along!), slightly lingering over large/flat areas. Don't worry, this will be toned down later with washes. It is important to gradually lighten your base colour as the model will look flat and have no depth. The seats were painted with oils - Vandyke brown with burnt Sienna added to give it that look of worn leather.

#### GLOSS COAT

I applied a layer of gloss varnish through my airbrush in preparation for the washes, which start the weathering process. I have found

that the gloss coat helps to control these washes and any mistakes can be rectified quite easily. The kit decals were then applied using Micro Set and Sol - this is a two part liquid system that softens and sets the decal, helping to eliminate the chance silvering under the clear areas.

#### WEATHERING

The model was given a wash of raw umber oil paint and left to dry, which will give the vehicle a suitably filthy look, defining details and toning down the contrast of the light grey. Using a fine '0' size

brush I applied pin washes around raised details such as rivets, hinges and other structures. It's at this stage that life begins to flow into your model! I tend to use three types of weathering media - oils, enamels and pigments. I like to apply localised washes using pigments, which replicate the effect of dust collecting around raised detail and in recesses, and the one I favour is Mig Productions Europe Dust (PS028).

#### MATT FINISH

The varnish I use is Cryla Soluble Matt Varnish by Daler Rowney

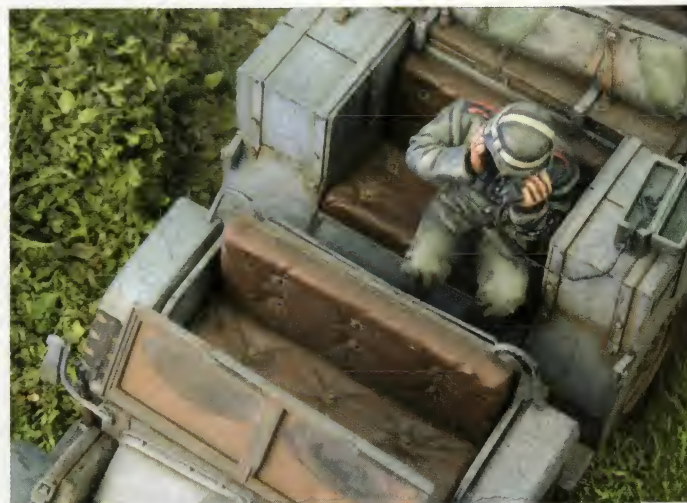
which is spirit based and sprays well. Finally graphite was rubbed over the floor plates and raised areas to simulate areas where the paint has worn through to the metal beneath.

#### SCRATCHES/CHIPS

I use dark brown enamel paint to create surface scratches, and I also used Supra colour pastel pencils for the first time. These come in many colours and shades and are great for creating scuffs, scratches and stains etc, and they can be blended with a brush to vary the effect and density of the marks.



Note how the grass has been flattened behind the gun where the crew have moved around whilst operating it.



Mig Productions europe dust has been washed into the recesses and combined with the sheen of the leather have helped to create a very realistic worn look.



◀ The wheels and tyres were left in the dark grey of the base coat, given a wash of Europe Dust, and once dry, MP Black Smoke (PS023) was applied using a broad brush to the raised details of the tyres.

#### DIORAMA CONSTRUCTION

The ground was built up using expanded polystyrene ceiling tiles, and the sides from balsa wood. This was given a coat of external textured paint, and once dry it was painted black and varnished. The grass used on the diorama is manufactured by Noch/ Gaugemaster and was bought from a local model railway shop. It comes in a matt, and can be cut to size - I cut it into strips and laid it on the groundwork to represent ruts in the soft earth. The grass mat was used on the bank, but the trampled area around the PaK was made using static grass and bits of leaf litter from the garden. The bushes are roots and bits from my garden sprinkled with herbs and tea leaves. The tree was bought at Euro Militaire and added to fill the space.

#### WATER

The tall grass was liberated from my front door mat and fixed to the base. The water was created using clear polyurethane resin, poured in layers with tea leaves and herbs added to give it a murky look.

#### FIGURES

The soldiers are a mixture of Tamiya, Dragon, Hornet and Verlinden. All were altered or detailed by having slings and webbing straps added, and each was treated to a new head. The boots and tunic of the soldier in the tub are from Royal Model and his trousers were scratchbuilt from Milliput. An enjoyable project with plenty of character. ■



The overall diorama displays a neat and balanced layout that leads the eye around the scene.

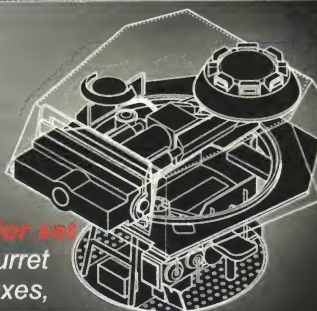
# Sd.Kfz. 171 Panther 1/35

## HIGHLY DETAILED SETS



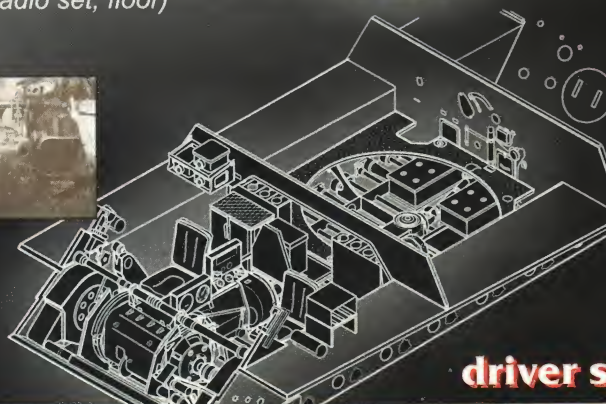
### interior set

**3030 Sd.Kfz. 171 Panther-interior set**  
(photo-etched parts, detailed turret compartments, gun, ammo boxes, radio set, floor)

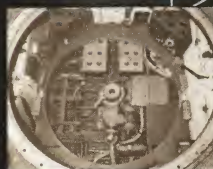


**3028 Sd.Kfz. 171 Panther - engine set**  
(photo-etched parts, detailed engine, covers, engine compartment, fuel tanks, radiators)

### engine set



### driver set



**3029 Sd.Kfz. 171 Panther-driver set**  
(photo-etched parts, detailed driver's compartments, transmission, ammo boxes, radio set, floor)



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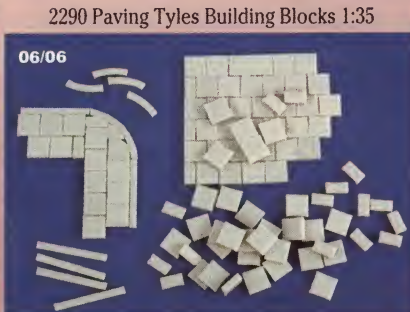




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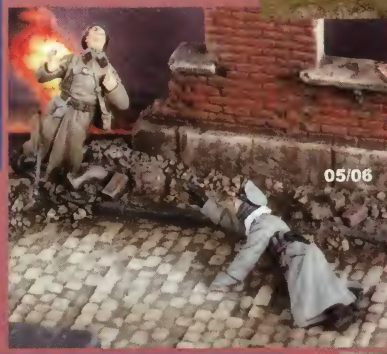
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Kit Contents



2284 German Barn (Resin) 1:48

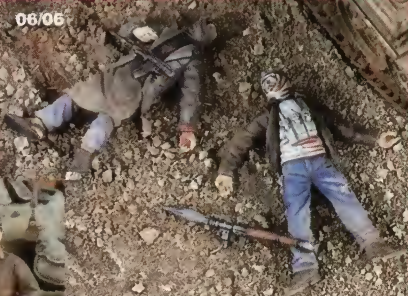
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06/06

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Kit Contents

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Kit Contents 06/06



Kit Contents



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# 18 TONS OF WEAR AND TEAR

**Phil Stutcinkas** shows what can be achieved with an out of the box build and some surprisingly simple painting techniques.





The tow bar, Jerry can and funnel are all Tamiya items and the tow cable was made from Nylon string.



The dusty windscreen effect was created by first masking the wiper arc's and then spraying the rest of the screens in matt varnish.



**E**very now and again I see a finished model either in a magazine or on the Internet that makes me think, 'wow! I want to have a crack at that'. One of those models for me was a rendition of the Tamiya 18 ton half-track by the well-known British model maker living in the US, Rhodes Williams. He had depicted a very worn out scheme of sand over a dark grey base. It was a revolutionary model in my eyes and I knew that I just had to have a bash at it myself.

I had at the time been given a built up Famo from a friend in my club so I didn't even have to go to the trouble of constructing the model. If only every model was as simple!

The first job in any painting exercise is a small amount of plan-

ning. One should always have a rough idea of where you want to go and how you are going to get there.

With the look of worn paint and some quite extreme weathering I figured that the base coat of paint was going to get quite a hammering. With this in mind I chose to use one of the excellent Tamiya Aerosols. These are Lacquer based and by far the toughest model paint available. The colour that I chose was Gunship Grey. It was close enough to the standard German panzer grey for my needs and in any case I never dwell on exact shades. The Tamiya paint sprays beautifully straight from the can and settles down amazingly well around all of the fine detail. A word of warning though this stuff really smells so it would probably

be best done outside.

I wanted to depict an old war weary vehicle that had seen a lot of action, maybe in different theatres of war. Consequently these older vehicles would display layers of different finishes.

So how to do the flaked and worn topcoat of paint? To be honest there are quite a few different methods that can be used to replicate the effect. Each one will give a slightly different look to the finished model.

#### THIS IS HOW I DID THE FAMO...

Confident that the base colour of grey was fully dry and cured (at least 24 hours) I then applied an overall coat of Humbrol Enamel 94. The model was then allowed to dry for about a day. This timing is critical and for that reason I would sug-

gest that a scrap model is sprayed with the Humbrol colour to use as a test bed. The model needs to be allowed to dry to the point where the sprayed coat of paint is just starting to cure and can not be turned back to liquid form when thinners is applied to its surface, the thinners should just start to break, lift and tear the surface of the skinned paint. This is where the scrap model comes into play. The whole sequence can be sped up with the use of a hairdryer.

With the coat of Humbrol at the skinned stage the next stage can begin. This involves the spraying of clean white spirit onto the surface of the model. This is best done using small amounts at a time just so that you can monitor what is happening.

Over a period of a few minutes ►





Cromwell Models resin Tarpaulin looks very realistic with the help of an imaginative application of paint. Note the way the rust has soaked through the canvas from the support frames.



The author has captured the beaten look of a vehicle in constant use in the harshest desert conditions superbly and all with the aid of some simple sticky tape!



you will start to see the coat of Humbrol start to craze and lift. This is the signal to stop spraying and dry off the model with the trusty hair dryer.

With the coat of white spirits dried off a piece of sticky tape, (I used Cellotape) was then used to dab the entire surface of the model. The coat of Humbrol lifts off in wonderful patterns that mimic extreme paint chips and weathering really well.

Some control can be maintained through the removal of some of the stickiness of the tape by dabbing it on to a piece of cloth first. This will result in smaller amounts of the Humbrol paint being lifted off. At the other end of the scale more of the Humbrol can be removed by spraying on more of the white spirits.

The only bit of a warning that I would give though is this technique is not ideal for every model. The Famo was built pretty much from the box and had no photo etched parts. I would hesitate using it on a model that was covered in PE. It is quite a rough technique and I am not sure how all of that fine intricate detail would stand up to it.

Happy with the look of the flaking I then just reverted back to my usual methods of weathering, the first being the application of a gloss coat. This just consolidates

what I have done thus far on the model and then makes the subsequent stages that bit easier and more manageable for me. The next stage was a simple colour wash of oil paint, nothing really complicated here. This stage just helps to give depth to the detail. Moving to the actual rusting, I was keen to portray a really battered vehicle that had started to rust through the paint. I had always planned on putting the Famo on a very late war diorama depicting an older vehicle, once retired and then pressed back into service that was the plan any way.

I painted this model in the days before the mighty pigments hit the market. In those days I used to use kids powder paint. I first made up a mixture of burnt umber powder paint, burnt umber oil paint and a little white spirits to the consistency of thick cream. I made up a couple more mixtures of the rust in different shades. This was simply achieved by adding some orange powder paint and/Humbrol No.62 Leather.

These mixtures were then carefully flicked onto the model with the use of an old toothbrush. You are aiming for very small pinhead sized spots nothing too drastic. Immediately after I then sprayed on a coat of white spirits. This starts to diffuse and soften the



Notice how each item of stowage has been painted with as much care as the actual vehicle, this is so important and is often overlooked. Incidentally all this stowage is a single casting available from Cromwell models mastered by the author.



rust spots in a most pleasing way. The evolution of the effect is then halted with the use of the hair dryer again to dry off the wet white spirit. The addition of the powder paints really works well and some great effects can be achieved with this method. Recently I have been using Mig Productions pigments for the effect and they work exactly the same and come in a multitude of different rust/brown tones. The effect can be further enhanced once this basic rust mixture has been allowed to dry. I carefully added some downward streaks of rust colour using neat oil paint and a fine quality dry brush. The trick here is to use a good brush; really small amounts of oil paint and the careful gradual build up of the colour.

As for the rest of the model it pretty much followed my usual methods that I have described before, in previous issues of our sister magazine TMMI. The careful application of washes, and paint chipping all help to enhance the effect, some selective dry brushing and most importantly for me, some careful detail painting, the art of illusion is all in the detail. ■



Amazing to think all this stowage is actually a single resin casting! All expertly brought to life by the author.

"With the coat of white spirits dried off a piece of sticky tape was then used to dab the entire surface of the model. The coat of Humbrol lifts off in wonderful patterns that mimic extreme paint chips and weathering really well."





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# **SNEAKY** *IN* **PINK**

Glen Bowen builds Tamiya's classic SAS  
Land-Rover, nearly straight-from-the-box...





**W**hen you first open the box with it's wonderful artwork, one is met by a mass of bright pink parts staring back at you. Once you have got over the shock of this you will notice a highly detailed little kit. One also has to remember that this kit was first released in the late 1970's so for it's age this little gem has stood the test of time. With some aftermarket products brought into the equation and a bit of scratch building, this thing really comes alive. So with kit, brass rod and Eduard photo etch in hand let's get started.

#### KIT BASHING

The kit starts off with the build up of the chassis. I didn't bother adding extra detail here, as it would not be seen. So this part of the build was straight forward enough. Next came the front part of the vehicle and this is where things start to get interesting. As this is where most of the photo etch will be added. So starting from the front this is what was added. Chains for the smoke dischargers a new front grill and number plate. New brackets and straps for the tripod. This also went for the crowbar pick, axe and spades. The spades also received new heads. Brackets for the side gun holders plus straps for the jerry cans. As for the drivers compartment this received a new sundial and radio set. I could have also replaced the instrument dials but in I didn't feel this was worth the effort and so just decided to paint the kit dials.

Next came the rear of the vehicle and the storage compartment. There was not much to be added here really, only a hand full of things. These included a storage box on the left hand side above the fuel tank, new sand channels left and right, and a new bullet storage bin on the rear MG. I also added an ammunition belt from Verlinden. Then finally I added that huge storage rack that appears on the back of these vehicles. At this point I decided to add a few little touches myself such as the metal storage pole that goes across the back of the rear stowage compartment. This idea was picked up from a walk around of the real thing in another modelling magazine I had. On the rear of the vehicle where the stowage rack is, I opted to add a new canvas cover as the kit part is a bit too solid and unrealistic looking. All I used for this was a piece of foil from the top of a wine bottle, (contents drank already of course). I also made up a canvas cover to the MG storage between the two front seats in exactly the same way. So that was all the kit bashing done and finished with. Now came the best bit - paint time.

#### PRETTY IN PINK

First of all with the model being covered in all that etch brass and foil the whole thing had to have a good undercoat. For this I used Tamiya XF2 matt white. I sprayed on three light coats thinned with Tamiya thinners. This was then left for twenty-four hours to harden







The basic vehicle taking shape, the pink colour can be off putting compared to the tans, greys and greens usually associated with injection plastic military kits.



Although the author used Eduard's etched brass set to up-date the Pinky he opted to not replace the kit instrument panel.



The kit General Purpose Machine Guns (GPMG's) still look pretty good by today's standards, even if the shape of the butt does look a bit suspect.

off. The next day it was time for the base coat and for this I used Tamiya X17 pink with a touch of XF7 flat red, again three thin coats were applied. Once I was happy with the base colour I could start on the highlights. This time I started off with just X17 pink. This was sprayed onto all the central parts of the panels, leaving just enough of the base coat showing through in the recesses. Next came the second and final highlight. This is done exactly as the last

highlight but this time I used X17 with a touch of XF55 deck tan. With all the spray work done the entire model received a good coat of Johnson Klear floor polish. The purpose for this is to protect the base colours from all the subsequent weathering processes I was going subject the model too.

#### GETTING WEATHERED

After another twenty-four hours when the Johnson Klear had hardened off the weathering

process could begin. First of all I painted the seats XF27 black green. When this had dried Maskol was painted on around the edges. Then another coat of pink was added. When this had dried the Maskol was removed with a pair of tweezers to reveal the black green underneath. This gave a nice peeled paint effect, just the look I was after. Looking back I should have done the whole of the model like this but I didn't, so that's something to remember for the next time!

Going away from the subject of my model for a minute or two. When I've been visiting shows around the country and looking at the models in the competitions I've noticed this great little model hardly ever featured and on the very few occasions I have seen any they have always looked like they have just been wheeled out of the showroom.

I wanted mine to look different. I wanted it to look as though it had seen some action. Saying



Before the introduction of GPS the good old sun compass was the most reliable way of navigating across a barren and featureless desert landscape.



The rear rack tarpaulin was fabricated from the foil top of a "used" wine bottle.



These vehicles were typically piled high with stowage and this one is no different.



The author has correctly given the tyres a coat of pink paint as well, only essentials such as lights and glazing would not to receive a coat of camouflage paint for such operations.



Tamiya's Venerable Pink Panther Land Rover has been brought right up to date with some simple modifications and a realistic paint finish.



## Modelspec

Tamiya 1:35 SAS Land-Rover 'Pink Panther'  
Item No. 35076

### Materials

Eduard SAS Landrover etched brass set 35754

### Paints used

Tamiya;  
XF27 Black Green, XT7 Pink, XF7 Flat Red,  
XF2 Flat White, XF55 Deck Tan.  
Vallejo;  
Model Color Russian Green.

### Weathering materials

Mig Pigments;  
PS 023 Black Smoke, PS 022 Ashes White  
PS 037 Gulf War Sand.

- ✓ A real understated model that's a joy to build and a great subject matter.
- ✗ The bright pink plastic isn't very easy on the eye!

### Available from

All good model shops.

Rating ●●●●●○○○

that they probably wouldn't have looked as bad as mine? Anyway onto the scratches and scrapes, for these I used Model Colours Russian Green applied with a very fine tipped brush. These were put on in the most common places where wear and tear occurs, such as where the crew would have entered and exited the vehicle, and where sand would hit and rub against the paintwork. This is quite time consuming but the end result is well worth it. Where the paint would be really scuffed right down to the bare metal I used a graphite pencil. Then to finish off the whole weathering procedure

MIG's pigments were used. Smoke pigment was used for the wear on the tyres and the tyre treads. It was also used on the lower part of the vehicle. The other pigments used were Gulf sand and Ash. These were just dusted on and left to settle where they landed.

### FINISHING OFF

With the majority of the paintwork complete all that was left was the detail painting, which included the little things such as the guns, jerry cans, packs, rucksacks, bed rolls, all the wooden parts and finally the lights and indicators. The rucksacks came from Verlinden and the bed

roles from Plus Models. These were painted in different colours and shades to add a bit of contrast to the rest of the model.

### CONCLUSION

I have thoroughly enjoyed doing this model as it made a refreshing change to the normal WW2 models that I usually build. It took me back to my childhood when I bought this kit on a visit to my grandparents. I also remember making a complete and utter mess of it. Hopefully this time I've managed to do the kit justice. So if you have one of these lying around get it out and give it a bash. ■



The author has captured the flaking paint effect perfectly on the vinyl covered seats.

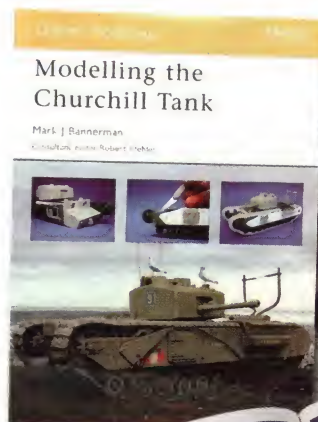


The Verlinden range of accessories and Plus models bed rolls help to stow up the vehicle.





# Book Reviews



## OSPREY MODELLING 18 MARDER SELF PROPELLED GUN

OSPREY PUBLISHING  
ISBN 1-84176-855-3

## OSPREY MODELLING 21 CHURCHILL TANK

OSPREY PUBLISHING  
ISBN 1-84176-869-3

Another two volumes in this well established Osprey series. Both are published in full colour and follow a similar format; a short introduction on the subject matter, a brief piece on the tools and materials used, the modelling projects themselves and finally what I would call the reference section which includes kits/accessories lists, bibliography, web-sites and a colour guide.

The Marder volume is by Australian modeller Sam Dwyer and features his Marder I (Ironsides), Marder II D (Alan), Marder III with Pak 36 (Tamiya), Marder III M (Tamiya) and Marder III H (Italeri). All of the projects are beautifully built, detailed and finished.

The Churchill offering is by Canadian modeller Mark Bannerman and features a Churchill Mk III (Tamiya), Churchill Crocodile (Tamiya), Churchill AVRE with SBG (Tamiya), and a Churchill V (Tamiya) again superbly built. In both cases, heavy use is made of after market products during construction. The painting/weathering sections are comprehensive and provide an insight into how top flight modellers present the finished articles. My main gripe with this sort of volume is that little or no detail is given for construction - no measurements and there isn't a scale drawing or schematic in sight, which is a little frustrating when, the Small Box Girder Bridge makes an appearance for example.

**VERDICT:** This is a very useful series which I am sure inspires us to move away from the 'out of the box' approach and well worth adding to the library.

Paul Egerton



## TOPSHOTS - BM-13N KATYUSHA on ZIS-6

ISBN 83-89088-94-0

## TOPSHOTS - T-72M1

ISBN 83-89088-98-3

KAGERO

Two more volumes in the excellent Kagero Topshot series. Both follow the well-proven format of a short introduction followed by dozens of captioned colour photos covering the vehicle and all of its detail.

The Katyusha is covered by 121 photos on 36 pages and is of an early example on a ZIS-6 truck preserved in the Great Patriotic War Museum in Kiev.

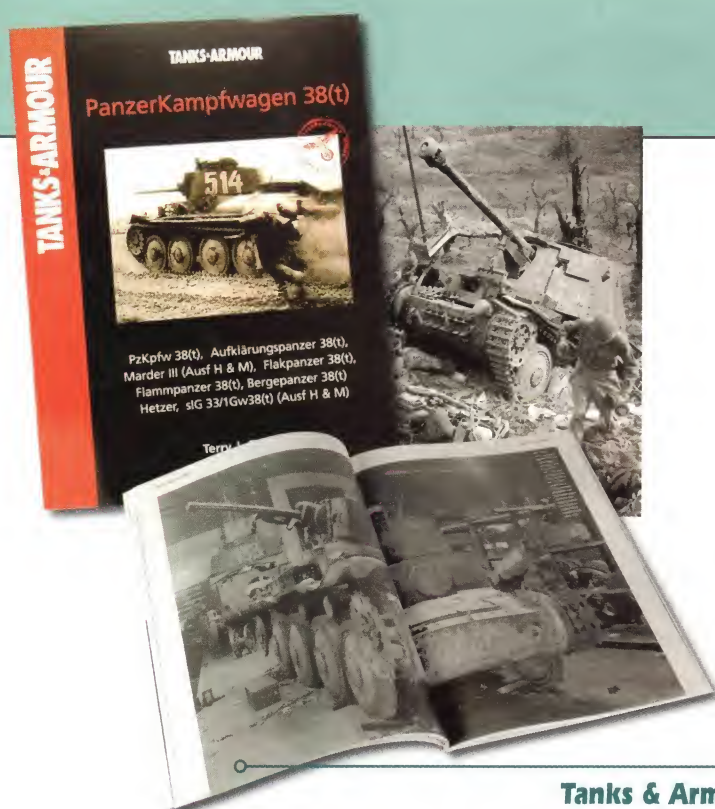
The T72M1 volume comprises 175 photos on 44 pages and covers examples from a pristine Czech vehicle at an arms fair to Weathered Polish tanks on manoeuvres. Detail coverage is very good indeed and I particularly liked the line drawings/schematics of the interior and engine, which makes the identification of components and their position easier to establish.

Both volumes contain masks (Identification numbers for the T72 and windscreen for the Katyusha).

**VERDICT:** Two more great value offerings from Kagero with the T72 example being particularly good. Unreservedly recommended - buy them!

Paul Egerton





## Tanks & Armour - Panzerkampfwagen I & II Tanks & Armour - Panzerkampfwagen 38(t)

**TERRY J. GANDER**

Ian Allen Publishing  
[www.ianallenpublishing.com](http://www.ianallenpublishing.com)

ISBN 0-7110-3090-1

ISBN 0-7110-3091-X

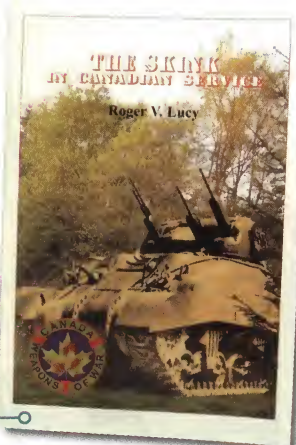
In the first 2 volumes of this new series, from Ian Allen Publishing, they have chosen to focus on the Pz. I & II, for part 1 & the Pz. 38(t), for part 2.

The books are just short of 100 pages each, in a spined, softback cover, just larger than A4 size.

As for content, they both cover the development & service of each particular tank & it's variants, with a mixture of factory, wartime & museum pictures. There are also a few fairly basic colour drawings, original line drawings & technical data, spread throughout. The pictures are all clearly printed, of at least half-page size & whilst most of them have been seen before, there were a few shots that were new to me at least.

**Verdict:** With a good balance of quality photographs & historical text, this series looks like being a good introduction to the more important armoured vehicles of the 20th Century.

**Darren Thompson**



## The Skink in Canadian Service

**ROGER V. LUCY**

SERVICE PUBLICATIONS

[www.servicepub.com](http://www.servicepub.com)

ISBN 1-894581-29-6

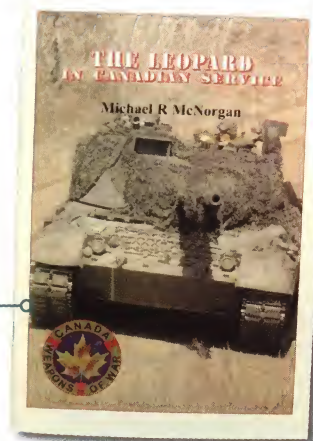
This latest in a series of publications describing Canadian weapons of war addresses one of the least known Canadian-designed armoured fighting vehicles, the armoured anti-aircraft vehicle, christened the Skink by the Canadians.

The book's 24 pages contain a history of the vehicle from its inception in 1942 through to the end of WW2. The text is supported by 16 black & white photographs, together with several drawings, including a centre page spread of scale drawings by George Bradford, well known for his range of AFV drawings and voted a founded father of armoured modelling by AMPS in 1999.

The author provides the reader a good understanding of the difficulties of developing weapons during war-time. In 1942 it was recognised that towed anti-aircraft weapons were unsuitable to provide protection whilst on the move and a request was made to develop a 20mm Light Anti-Aircraft mounted on a mobile chassis. This request eventually led to the creation of the Skink, a quad gun arrangement housed in a purpose-built turret and mounted on a M4 chassis. Delays in development, including a last minute decision by 21st Army Group to use Polsten and not Hispano-Suiza guns, meant that only one vehicle reached a theatre of war before the end of hostilities in 1945 (it only saw action in a ground-cover role due to the absence of a German aerial threat). This is despite the intention for delivery of 135 vehicles before D-Day.

Overall the book is an interesting read of a little known subject. With a wealth of models of Shermans on the market the book would provide invaluable reference for a modeller wishing to add a very unusual subject to their collection.

**Keith Goldsworthy**



## The Leopard in Canadian Service

**MICHAEL R. MCNORGAN**

SERVICE PUBLICATIONS

[www.servicepub.com](http://www.servicepub.com)

ISBN 1-894581-31-8

Following the same format as the Skink book, this publication by Michael R McNorgan Covers the German manufactured leopard I, which incidentally was the first Tank produced in Germany since the end of WWII. The book contains some 25 black and white photos, these photos include driver training machines as well as specialist engineer and recovery versions. The centre pages contain a nice set of four view line drawings as well. The Author has done an excellent job of describing the development and operational history of these machines. I found the written information to be very informative and very interesting, with some funny anecdotes.

I thoroughly enjoyed this read and look forward to seeing more from Service Publications, Highly recommended.

**The Editor**





# BLITZKRIEG JUMBO

Darren Thompson gives us his first impressions of Dragons latest Panzer IV variant.

**F**ollowing on from Dragon's recent release of the Pz.IV E, comes this 'Vorpanzer', which is basically the same tank, with additional spaced armour for the hull front, sides & turret mantlet.

The same Tank, but the same kit too? Well, with the release of the Dragon's original Pz.IV, kit no. 6264, came a deluge of criticism, mainly aimed at the incorrect positioning & detailing, of the front drive sprockets, but also many other details which were regarded as being too big, too small, or just plain wrong, in one respect or another. With this new release, however, Dragon have taken all this criticism on board & seen fit to correct many of the errors, resulting in some of the parts, including the lower hull & drive housings, to be completely re-tooled. Top marks to Dragon then!

On the plus side, anybody who hasn't yet bought Dragon's original Pz.IV, will be pleased to know that all the parts to make the standard late version are included with the 'Vorpanzer' too, although I would expect these

corrections to gradually make their way over to the original kit fairly soon.

Now to the superlatives. As with previous releases, there are no shortage of parts, including 3 etch brass frets, steel tow cable, turned aluminium barrel & brass ammunition & markings to cover 5 different vehicles. The plastic mouldings are exquisite; ejector pin marks have been kept to a minimum, usually out of sight on the finished model & individual 'magic tracks', also help to save on the clean-up time.

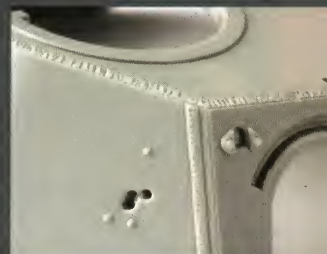
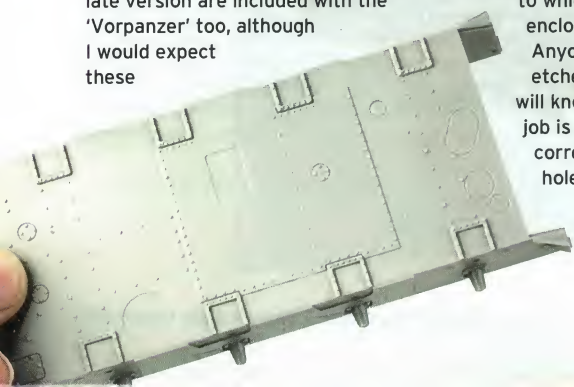
Some of the standout features have to be the duplication of parts. For example, you get 2 complete sets of tools, one with moulded clamps & another without clamps, to which you add the enclosed etched items. Anyone who has added etched tool clamps will know that the next job is usually to fill the corresponding location holes, but not here, Dragon have

thoughtfully included a second set of fenders without these holes, allowing you to include, or delete the tools as

necessary & just to add the icing to this cake, the treadplate detail is present, in negative form, on the underside of these fenders too!

A lot of the credit for this kit has to be down to the technical assistance that Dragon received. Both Tom Cockle & Gary Edmundson will be familiar names to modellers of German armour & they have managed to incorporate many of the details, normally left to the modeller to include & generally regarded as impossible to recreate in plastic, in to this kit. Let's hope this co-operation continues.

From the 6 part jack, to the padlocks on the turret bin, this kit oozes detail. The drive housings include interior detail, as does the turret, the suspension is moveable & the lamp wiring is all pre-bent, personally, I can't wait for Dragon to give the rest of the Pz.IV's the same treatment! ■





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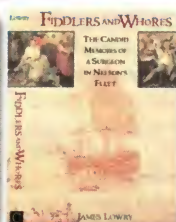
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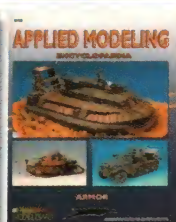
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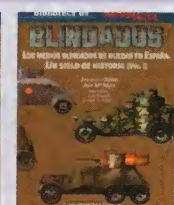


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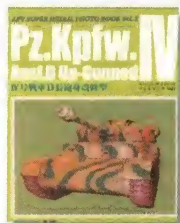


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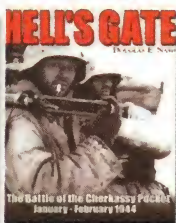
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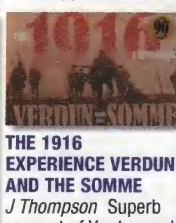
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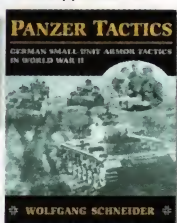
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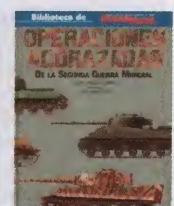
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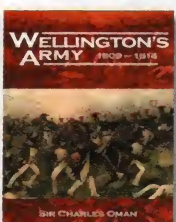
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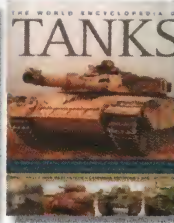
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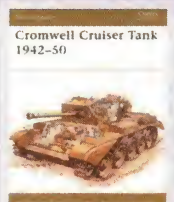


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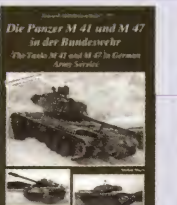
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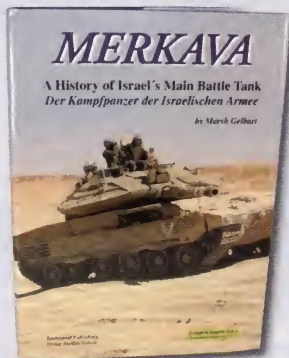
# Letters

## RECOMMENDED READING

### MERKAVA, HISTORY OF ISRAEL'S MAIN BATTLE TANK

**MARSH GELBART**  
TANKOGRAFI PUBLISHING  
ISBN 3-93651-9013 £33.99  
[WWW.MOTORBOOKS.CO.UK](http://WWW.MOTORBOOKS.CO.UK)

If you are interested in modelling the Israeli Armies Merkava series of main battle tank then this is really a must have. It covers everything from the initial wooden mock-ups based on a Centurion hull right through to its latest incarnation, the awesome Mk 4. The book contains a wealth of written information that does an outstanding job of clarifying the different marks and sub marks. The photo selection is very good offering a nice mix of vehicles in action, or on exercise as well as complete walk-a-rounds of each type. I found this book was all I needed when building Legend Productions Merkava 2D. Likewise it is my choice of read while I psyche myself up to start Legends Mk 4 featured in this issue's incoming section.



#### 240 AND COUNTING

Finally, a magazine dedicated to armour from the 'leaders' in model magazines! I have been a TMMI reader for more years than I can remember. I found Issue 1 at a swap meet at The Valor Road chapter of IPMS here in Winnipeg. The rest is history as they say. Along comes ADH's new magazine all about aircraft this time, and the result is nothing less than stupendous! I have sent in a few ideas to the new editor of MAI, and his response was very encouraging. We have barely had time to get comfy with the new mag, when ADH does it again - crikey! 'Spud' sounds like just the right guy to head up the venture into the printed armor pages. I have recently finished my new 'model shop' downstairs, and can't wait to open up a kit and get at it. I really took a shine to armour stuff after

I finished a T-55 in Iraqi theme based on a build by one of the TMMI chaps. It took 1st place at the year end club contest. With the announcement of the new armor mag, I will be looking forward to articles on step by step how to's for soft skins as well as wheeled vehicles, another new 'fave'. I already have every modern German wheeled APC in the stash. Now approaching 240 kits! My wife says at my age (54 this 20th), I should be thinking of my retirement - I am. Live long, build 'em all, with you guys help!

Cheers

Laurie in Winnipeg, via email

**Ed Says:** Thanks Laurie for your letter, it's always nice to here that something we feature in the magazine inspires a build of your own. Happy birthday and put that new workshop to use!

#### PRAISE FROM PERCY

Just received my first copy of the Model Military magazine, and thought I'd drop you a note to say how impressed I am with it. At last, a military model mag for modellers by modellers! I'll be more than happy to recommend it around my club. From a soldier to a flyboy - keep up the good work Biggles...

SSgt Ian Barraclough, via email

**Ed Says:** I hope the guys in the club will like the magazine as well? I know as a modeller what I would like to see in each issue let's just hope it's what everyone else wants?

#### FROM THE WEB TO THE PAGE

I have just read your first magazine and must say what a pleasure it is to have hard copy again! I have given up with the other mags a long time ago, and use Armorama these days. That is where I saw an article on your magazine. It is well laid out and the photographs are large and clear which add to the great articles. Keep up the good work.

Many thanks to all,  
Tony Hogan, via email

**Ed Says:** As a monthly publication we cannot hope to compete with the Internet when it comes to exclusives and the like, this is to the fact that we work eight weeks in advance. This generally means that what's new news at the time of writing, is old news at the time the magazine hits the shelves. Is a little more permanent than the pages on a web site, certainly when you keep the copies of MMI in our stylish and robust binders.

#### IT'S ON THE LIST

Just received issue 1 of MMI I in the postbox! Looks great, it definitely has its own feel and look, I especially liked the hands-on advise on how to do things. Perhaps an article on airbrushing? Step by step on how to get those fine lines and how to get those even surfaces? How to use different pressures for different things?

Keep up the good work,  
Jan, via email

**Ed Says:** Thanks for the kind words and we are glad you liked the first issue, we have got many tips and techniques articles in the pipeline. We will definitely be covering airbrushing in the future, but for our first issue we thought it best to cover some basic building techniques before concentrating on the painting aspect.



#### WHAT ABOUT THE BIG BOYS

Just had a good look through the new mag today as far as I can see there are slight differences with TMMI but on the whole it's the same format which isn't a bad thing just more tanks. I would like to see more 1/15 -1/16 builds and preferably some R/C tanks as this is a growing area, resin and etched parts suppliers all the usual aftermarket stuff. What is happening with the Tiger II build you have been promising for some time?

This may not appeal to most readers but modelling is modelling regardless of the scale.

Mark. Lawson, via e-mail

**Ed Says:** Thanks for the comments, we do intend to feature 1:15 and 1:16 vehicles and figures unfortunately the articles we have received in these scales really haven't been up to the standard to publish. As for the Tiger II you mention I haven't received one or any of the up-dates so far. I do Have a Tamiya 1:16 Leopard 2A6 on the back burner which I intend to feature as soon as possible.

#### FARNBOROUGH FANS

This is the first time I have written to a magazine, however, this is the first magazine I have felt the desire to read cover to cover and enjoyed completely. So a big thank you to you and your staff for a great first issue, and to whoever had the idea to get this publication off the ground. I have been modelling for the last 10 years, more seriously since I left the Army 6 years ago in June! Time has flown by!! The point being that although I have learnt a lot from going to the Farnborough IPMS club I attend and from reading MIS and TMMI and I have always wanted to have the techniques explained better and you have shown your intent to nail this within the various articles



#### WRITE TO:

MMI Letters, ADH Publishing, Doolittle Mill, Doolittle Lane, Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX, UK  
Tel:01525 222573 Fax:01525 222574 Email:editor@modelmilitary.com

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Now all I have to do is try and put in all into practice!  
Good luck with this venture and I hope it goes from strength to strength, I know I have been waiting for this type of magazine for 10 years!!

Sam Wilson, via E-mail

**Ed Says:** Thanks Sam we hope to have some great technique guides featuring in future issues, please feel free to let us know if there is something particular you would like to see covered?

#### SOME MODERN STUFF PLEASE

I know I have seen only one issue of the Model Military International but I was wondering if you will be featuring more articles on modern subjects. I couldn't help but notice that issue one was full World War II subjects, don't get me wrong I'm very happy that you have launched a magazine with my modelling interest's in mind. But not all your readers will want to see Sherman's and WWII German tanks all the time..

Ryan Powell, via e-mail

**Ed Says:** Thanks for the comments, our first issue was meant to a bit of a showcase of the topics we aim to cover. I appreciate the first issue was a bit Sherman biased but, the aim was to show a building feature, a tech guide, diorama that incidentally was modern and the something from the new 1:48 scale. Hopefully you will have noticed in this issue we have featured a 1970's British SAS Landrover, and that there will be a detailed build of an Italeri IDF M60 Blazer in issue 3 along with others to be confirmed. As long I can get some modelling time in soon, I will be working my way through a whole host of modern subjects on my workbench. These include at least 4 helicopters, an OIF Diorama and a couple more IDF subjects and that's just the tip of the iceberg.

#### PICTURE PERFECT

It's arrived and it's just as good as I was hoping, sorry better! Yes a magazine on my subject at a price I can afford.

The kits I buy are always made from the boxes with added scratch built pieces where needed as I find add-ons are expensive like resin etc. I think it's more challenging to make your own from other peoples waste.

My favourite thing is to place the kit on a diorama, which is my way of displaying my kit to its best advantage. This is where my problem lies as I have found it difficult to find the back drops for it as I always photograph my models after they are completed. So please can you tell me where I can get back drops in the right scale of 1:35 (i.e. bombed out buildings, tree lines etc).

Do you photograph your models with realistic back drops? If so, you may know where I am coming from. May I suggest to yourself and your production team the possibility of including a small free gift of some back drops in various scales, this could be done for your subscribers as I will be one of them, it could tempt a lot more people.

If you do decide to do this could you include an article on how to use them to their advantage. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

MD Russell, Bath

**Ed Says:** Thanks for your kind comments and we will aim to raise the bar further as we publish more issues of MMI.

**We totally agree with you that building kits straight out of the box is a really good way to model.**

**We also like to add extras but you make a good point of making the most of the standard kit, we will be reviewing kits totally from the box as well as modified in MMI.**

**We really like your idea of publishing a backdrop - we will look into it and we are aiming to produce a guide of photographing models so keep reading.**

**We tend to use photographs and have them blown up at copier shops to suit, also Staples sell a large sky blue poster with clouds that we have also used...**

Keep your letters coming, just write to:  
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## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

When we announced the launch of MMI on our web site there was a link to information about submitting work and becoming part of the contributing team.

In the most part we've had a fantastic response with some stunning models that have been professionally lit and photographed and articles I wish I could have written as creatively. But there has been a reverse side to this, in that we have also received work that shall we say isn't quite up to the mark, it is this part of my new job I'm having the most trouble with and that is having to tell people, in some way without hurting anyone's feelings, that the work they have submitted isn't up to the standard we would be able to publish.

Contributing isn't only a case of being able to build and paint models to a high standard. It is also about understanding photography and being able to clearly and concisely put into words the processes involved. During my time in this hobby I have been to many a model show around the country and participated in a lot of competitions when I first started modelling. I will be the first to admit it's not a nice feeling when you enter your latest creation into the comp only to find it doesn't get placed after all the time and effort you've put into it.

Well my point is if a piece of work is submitted which looks like it was taken with a camera-phone from thirty feet away, won't have as much of a chance as a model that may not be as well painted for example but the overall presentation is more professional.

I suppose if you went for a job interview in T-shirt and jeans and everyone else was wearing a suit you would probably figure out you hadn't put your heart into really wanting that job.

See you again on 1st June!

**Spud**  
John 'Spud' Murphy

## JUST GOTTA BUILD IT!

### WE TAKE A CLASSIC PHOTOGRAPH FROM WORLD WAR TWO THAT'S JUST CRYING OUT TO BE TURNED INTO A MINIATURE SCENE...

Although this looks like this could be a still from Steven Spielberg's Saving Private Ryan, this is a genuine wartime picture, all be it that it may be posed one never the less it is really inspirational. It just looks great in that it really gives a feel for the conditions the allies faced during the fighting for Normandy.

To me it feels like the photographer had us modellers in mind when he took this one, he was even kind enough to photograph the building plastered in Verlinden hoardings and signposts! The troops have that really grubby dishevelled look about them, exhausted but you still wouldn't want to mess with them.

The Kubelwagen carries that thin film of dust that gets easily rubbed off, a difficult technique to master on a model. The area of the bonnet is interesting in that where the spare wheel sits is devoid of any camouflage, and just goes to confirm tools cables and the like weren't always removed before the camo colours were applied. This one's on my to do list once I learn how to sculpt figures properly.

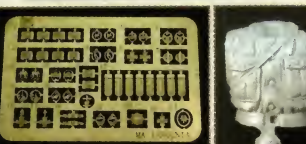






# Figures

- A round-up of the latest figured sets on release...



## Dragon

### 1:35 Gen 2 figure sets

#### GERMANIA REGIMENT FRANCE 1940 6281

Another stunning set of figures from Dragon, this set contains four early war troops, two of which are consulting a map and the others are standing watching some distant action unfold. The first is an ammo bearer for an MG-34 team, the second is armed with a Czech light machine gun.

As we have come to expect from these G2 figure sets there is a small brass fret for the belt buckles, medals and epaulettes. As a bonus Dragon have thrown in a set of various French road signs with appropriate decals. I think these sets are outstanding value for money, all this lot for less than the price of your average single 1:35 resin figure.

Some the highlights are the beautifully detailed separate hands, the hollow sleeves and the accurate hobnail soled boots. Apart from these there are the best heads ever produced in plastic and weapons that are leagues above any other I have seen in this scale.

The only downside is that some careful adjustment of the parts is needed whilst the glue is setting to get the best fit, this is because each figure is made up from so many bits.

**Verdict:** I think this set will look superb next to the new Tamiya Char B, abandoned or knocked out on the side of the road. That's handy I've just given myself a diorama ideal. **8.5/10**

The Editor

Available from: All good model shops



## Warriors

### 1:35 BRITISH SOLDIER TROPICAL DRESS

#### Item No. WA35540

Cast in Warrior's familiar cream resin and to their usual high standard, the figure has a real battle hardened look about him with is bandaged wound to his wrist and his helmet cocked at a slight angle really giving him some character.

I think he offers great diorama potential, for example next to a Dragon Panzer IVE or even Tamiya's old 25 Pdr and Quad. **9.5/10**

### 1:35 WEHRMACHT SPG TEAM

#### Item No. WA35543

This set of figures depict an Officer and crewman both standing the officer is pointing while the crewman looks on with hands on hips, as these figures are free standing and aren't designed with a particular vehicle in mind they could be very useful set to help bring a variety of German armour to life.

**Verdict:** The sculpting is very well done and the casting is first class. **9/10**

The Editor

Available from: LSA Models ([www.lsamodels.co.uk](http://www.lsamodels.co.uk))



## Italeri

### 1:72 WWII GERMAN ELITE TROOPS

#### Item No. 6068

### 1:72 WWII RUSSIAN INFANTRY (WINTER UNIFORMS)

#### Item No. 6069

Although both of these sets are geared towards the wargamer, they should however prove just as useful to the 1:72 modeller. In each set there is a good balance of both action and casual poses. The figures are cleanly moulded and extremely well detailed. Something else that is very important is that the figures are well proportioned and the poses look life like and natural.

**Verdict:** Once painted should look every bit as good as many of the other figures available in this scale. **8.5/10**

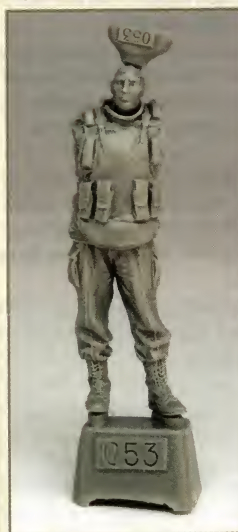
The Editor

Available from: All good model shops

## Tank

### MODERN INFANTRYMAN II CHECHNYA 1994-2005

#### Item No. T-35053



Every one of the Tank range of figures I have seen so far have been first class in both the sculpting and the casting. This Modern Russian infantryman is no exception, by using a medium grey resin, it really helps show off the stunning level of detail. This particular figure comes with a choice of two left arms, giving the option of having him casually leaning on a vehicle fender for example. Or the other arm is designed to have him adjusting his "battle bowler" (helmet)

Giving him a quick height check he scales out at 1 metre 72 cm or 5' 8" in old money. It's nice to see figures that are realistic to scale unlike some others I could mention! The one and only criticism I would make is that the painted figure on the box top really doesn't do the superb sculpting justice.

**Verdict:** Highly recommended. **9.5/10**

The Editor

Available from: AFV Modeller ([www.afvmodeller.com](http://www.afvmodeller.com))





**AD Models**  
**1:35 WWII BRITISH**  
**AIRBORNE FORCES JEEP**  
**DRIVER**

**Item No. n/a**

Here's a new company to us with the first in a new line of figures, AD models have produced a 1:35 WWII British Airborne Forces Jeep driver. This figure has been designed specifically for the Tamiya Willys Jeep.

The figure is cleanly cast in cream coloured resin, the head is particularly well sculpted, and his Denison smock has that authentic baggy look to it. It could however do with a bit of a rub over with a Scotch-Brite pad to soften

the sharp edges of all the folds and creases, and maybe some Mr surfacer to smooth over some of the rougher parts of the sculpting

**Verdict:** Always nice to have more Allied figures and this one will compliment Great North Roads Horsa glider perfectly. **7/10**

The Editor

Available from: AD Models ([www.admodels.co.uk](http://www.admodels.co.uk))



**Master box LTD**  
**1:35 BRITISH TROOPS, CAEN, 1944**  
**Item No. MB3512**

These are the first figures I have seen from this Eastern European manufacturer and, having a preference for all things Allied, was pleased to be asked to undertake this review. The figures are described as Caen, 1944, but could be used in many N-E Europe locations post D-Day.

The box contains a single sprue and a small sheet of decals. Four figures can be produced, each reflecting the relaxed poses presented on the box art. Three of the figures are depicted in typical British battledress but could, of course, be used to portray Canadian troops. It would also be possible to depict French commando figures. The fourth figure is dressed in a Denison smock and designed to represent a commando, complete with woollen cap. With a change of headgear an airborne soldier could be portrayed. The plastic is not unduly soft and together with the skill of the sculptor has helped produce some very crisp mouldings. The battledress detail is very well depicted, as are the facial details on the separate heads. Unfortunately the legs of each figure contain a mould seam, located at the front and rear of the leg. These will require careful clean up with fine wet and dry paper or needle file.

Various rucksacks, ammo pouches and webbing gear are included. Lengths of rope are represented by plastic mouldings, shaped to drape over the top of the rucksack. Personally I would replace these items with lengths of thread. The weapons include a holstered pistol for the officer, a Sten gun, Lee Enfield rifle and a Bren gun. Unfortunately the Bren gun is moulded without its bipod and will need to be added by the modeller or replaced with a Bren gun from the spares box.

The decals provided are for uniform insignia, including rank badges, divisional badges and shoulder titles. Unfortunately in the sample provided there seems to have been problems with colours on some of the decals. The Tyne Tees badges are shown as black upon green whereas they should be red upon black. The Commando shoulder flashes appear to have a blue background with white wording but should be red wording upon a black background.

The build of the infantryman equipped with the Lee Enfield rifle is not without its problems although nothing that cannot be solved with the careful application of some filler, particularly around the right shoulder joint. The hands also need some persuasion to fit around the rifle. The only other thing of note is that the dome of the helmet appears slightly too high.

**Verdict:** Good. With careful clean up and painting these figures will provide a welcome addition to the Allied figure stock. Their use can be further extended by the use of replacement heads and weapons. **7/10**

Keith Goldsworthy

Available from: Hannants ([www.hannants.co.uk](http://www.hannants.co.uk))



**Oddziat Osmy**

**White metal 20mm war game figure sets**  
**GERMAN INFANTRY MARCHING 1941**

**Item No. WG-01**

**US PARATROOPERS NORMANDY 1944**

**Item No. WUS-01**

Although these sets are designed for wargaming they will be just as useful for the small-scale modeller wanting to populate their dioramas. Each set contains 10 figures in varying poses.

The German figures are in casual marching order and have a battle weary look to them.

The US Paratroopers are all in action poses, ideally suited for people wanting their dioramas to contain lots of drama. The detail contained in the figures of both sets is very good and the proportions look right, some of the figures come with their weapons and one arm separate, presumably to make them easier to cast.

**Verdict:** Two well-produced and useful sets of figures for the small-scale builder or wargamer. **9/10**

The Editor

Available from: Oddziat Osmy, Iberjska 7/49, 02-764 Warsaw, Poland





# References - Challenger 2

**F**or our second issue we thought we would start having a more in depth look at specific vehicles, over the coming months we want to cover some of the mind boggling amount and types of vehicles, equipment and helicopters, used by the Military.

Unfortunately we cannot have complete walkarounds, as we would have no room left in each issue for anything else! What we do want to do is give a useful selection of decent sized pictures that may just be of some use for a future project or something on your workbench at the moment. Or even worse one you have just finished!

We will feature photos from the likes of David Doyle, Andrew Willis and Bob Grimster all of which have massive collections photos perfect for these pages.

For our first mini walk-a-round Andrew Willis photographed this immaculate Challenger 2 at one of the Tank Museum Bovington UK demonstration days

And what better place to start than with the best modern main battle tank in the world! (That last comment will fill the letters page...) ■



## CHALLENGER 2 - UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Not a complete walkaround but a selection of modeller friendly reference for that model you have just finished!

▼ This shot shows up nicely the contrast between the dry and freshly wetted layer of dust on the main road wheels.







▲ A rather dirty right hand side taillight cluster, the small cylinder shape above the left hand light is another light to illuminate the number plate to comply with UK highway laws.



▲ Some great details here including the TOGS sight and its armoured door. Note also the fluted muzzle of the co-axial machine gun.

▼ Lower bow plate details, of interest here is the very neat weld seam around the front towing lug.







# References - Challenger 2



▲ Lots of detail here including the non tactical fire extinguisher, notice how paint has flaked from the hinge segments of the front mudguards. The anti-slip coating shows up well in this picture as well.

▼ Close-up of the right hand headlight and horn.

▼ Close-up of the left hand side headlight and mounting.







▲ Drivers hatch. Of interest here is the twin wipers of the driver's single viewing optics, as well as the construction of the turret front plates.



▲ Front left hand hull side showing the emergency pull handle and its instruction label.



▲ The door handle shaped fixture is actually the clamp for securing the rear end of the tow cable end. Note also the finger print marks and the sooty exhaust outlet.



▲ Close-up of the Don-Ten cable reel and the empty Jerry can holder. The Black and white striped patch is to aid night convoy driving.

▼ A very useful photo for both detailing and weathering including the tie-down straps and the rain streaks running down the fuel drums.







## TAMIYA

**1:48 CROMWELL MK.IV BRITISH CRUISER TANK MK.VIII, A27M  
ITEM NO. 32528**

I'm sure this will be a very popular subject in this ever-growing armour scale.

Apart from a few simplifications. It is in all respects a perfect miniature of Tamiya's superb 1:35 big brother including the parts breakdown.

At the time of writing I had only an early test shot to go by, there was no lower hull or markings. I presume Tamiya are sticking with the current trend of producing the lower hull as a metal casting. The only other difference of note is that the tracks have been reproduced in injection plastic and are now link and length. Tamiya have thoughtfully pre shaped the shorter track sections to simplify track assembly around the sprockets and idlers.

Judging by the parts layout there is potential for Tamiya to produce the Centaur without too much extra work.

Failing that rumour has it that Accurate Armour has some conversions and updates in the pipeline for this very kit.

Beautifully engineered and a great subject choice, I'm sure it will be a real winner.

9/10

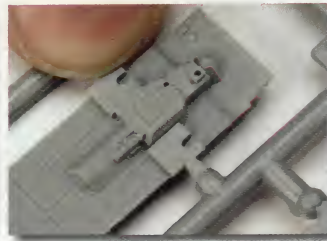


## DRAGON

**1:72 SD-KFZ 251/1 AUSF-D  
ITEM NO. 7225**

Following on from their earlier release of a SDKFZ 251/1 Ausf C, Dragon have released the Ausf D. The kit consists of 120 parts, a set of DS100 tracks, five etched brass parts and a metal rod for the radio aerial. I have to say I was really looking forward to reviewing this kit and it did not disappoint. As is the Ausf C and again to make the modellers life that bit easier, the inner two rows of road wheels are moulded as one unit, the next row is one unit and only the outer row are individual. Again the parts are crisply moulded and the detail Dragon have given you is quite astonishing in this scale, highlights include individual MP40s, racks and ammunition and Rifle racks. All the doors can be positioned open although there is no engine in the bay and the MG-42s are a work of art with finely moulded bipods and separate ammunition drum. You also get a choice of gun shields, in plastic or etched brass. The internal detail in this kit really cries out for careful painting to accentuate the tiny detail, again no fit problems were encountered. The kit comes with no less than 11 decal options including a captured polish example used in the Warsaw uprisings, the comprehensive sheet is well printed and in register. All in all another fine kit from Dragon, which I heartily recommend.

9.5/10 Jeff Adams







## LEGEND

### 1:35 IDF MBT MERKAVA MK IV MULTI MEDIA FULL KIT ITEM NO. LF1123

The Israeli Merkava IV has got to be one of the meanest looking tanks in service to date. Korean company Legend has done a wonderful job of capturing the look of this beast. Legend has been responsible for producing conversions and upgrades for most of the Merkava range. The IV however is a full kit, most of the parts are reproduced in good quality resin, that's very well cast with no blemishes, the level of detail is excellent through out all of the parts. I particularly liked the how cleanly the link and length tracks had been cast, requiring virtually no clean-up.

Legend include a set of their colour instructions featuring a built up model with lots of red and white arrows pointing out the individual part location. The instruction also thoughtfully include 3 photos of the parts list to make the parts easily identifiable. To finish off the smaller fittings there is a large etched brass fret, brass wire, copper chain and a length of bath chain to make the ball and chain armour that hangs from the rear of the turret, having previously built the Merkava 2D I can honestly say you will more than likely be able to assemble the whole kit quicker than building those lovely ball and chains! 8.5/10

## CMK

### 1:72 ACCESSORY SETS MV058 U.S EQUIPMENT SET WWII MV061 TENT SET #1

Both sets feature a selection of beautifully sculpted and detailed stowage equipment. Set MV058 is designed to be used on US WWII vehicles, but most parts can be used to stow up vehicles from other Allied Nations from that period. Come to think of it a lot wouldn't look out of place on modern armour. Whereas MV061 is pretty much universal anyway, making both sets a must for anybody's small scale spares box. Highly recommended. 8.5/10



## Coming Soon...

### ABER ETCHED BRASS SETS 1:35

G18 Grilles for Dragon Tiger 1  
35181 Vol 2 additional set  
Fenders for Trumpeter  
12.8 cm "Sturer Emil"  
35185 Vol 1 Pz IV Ausf D to fit  
Tristar kit.

35186 Vol 2 Pz IV Additional  
set Fenders to fit Tristar kit.  
35A84 upper armour for  
SdKfz 250 "Alte" late-version to  
fit Dragon kit

### 1:48

48A04 Jerry can set for  
Tamiya set no. 32510  
48004 Strmggeschütz III  
Ausf B to fit Tamiya kit.

### 1:25

25002 German tool holders-  
late used from 1943.

### ALPINE MINIATURES

Winter Panzer Crew Set 2  
Figures and 4 Heads (35038)



### PLUS MODEL

1:35 GAZ 61-73 4x4 Complete  
resin kit (239)



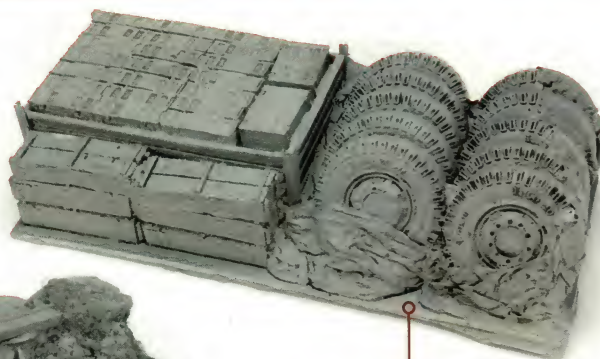
### TRAKZ

1:35 LVT details for Italeri's  
1:35 LVT(A)-1





# Incoming



## MMK CARGO LOADS

MMK are a new company to us.

The first three sets we have received are cargo loads for trucks. RZ35004 is a load for a modern vehicle it is supposed to be generic but judging by the British pattern Metal ammunition containers it may well limit its uses for the non-NATO vehicles.

RZM 35019 and 35021 are designed for German WWII trucks both contain an assortment of stowage. 35019 contain a Maybach engine, as it's main load item were 35021 features a motorcycle and sidecar. Admittedly you will have to look closely to spot it!

Overall they are quite nicely cast, there are a few minor air bubbles some on parts that may prove difficult to fill. A quick and simple way to fill a truck bed once all those parts have been painted in situ. One for a steady hand and lay off the coffee!

7/10

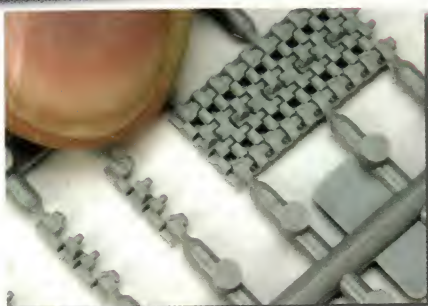
## MONROE PERDU

MPD-033 1:35 WALL SIGNS SET 1

MPD-037 1:35 WALL SIGNS SET 2

These Monroe Purdu Dry-rub signs are designed for World War II Mediterranean buildings, great for adding splash of colour to a diorama.

9/10



## DRAGON

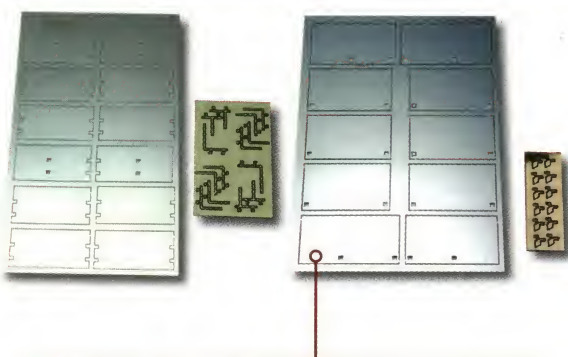
1:72 BERGEpanzer TIGER (P)

ITEM NO. 7227

I must confess I had never heard of this variant of the Porsche Tiger so it came as no surprise to me that only three were ever made. The kit itself consists of 215 parts (of which 118 are the individual track links) and 14 etched brass parts. There has been a lot of discussion on web pages about the tracks Dragon include in their kits, I must confess I like the DS100 tracks but these are not included, this kit comes with the link and length tracks first seen in the Ferdinand Pro-modeller release and these comprise of 100 individual track links, which is a lot of cleaning up in this scale! That aside there really isn't much to this kit and you have a choice of variants, with early or late engine decks and the later version also comes with a remotely controlled MG34 mounted on the superstructure roof. The kit also comes with a choice of Jib options, either stowed or working, the working option comes complete with etched brass chain for the blocks which although one dimensional looks really good in this scale. There are actually four decal options included in this kit as some vehicles were rebuilt with the later features but be aware that some of these may require an Application of Zimmerit paste so please consult your references. I like the look of the finished model especially if you stow the boom, as it resembles some late war APC, recommended.

8/10





## MONROE PERDU

### 1:35 PANTHER D/A BAZOOKA SHIELDS

### 1:35 PANTHER G BAZOOKA SHIELDS

These two sets from Monroe Perdu go against all convention with these laser cut card and wood update sets. Admittedly there are a multitude of etched brass sets to replace the kit skirts. These however are a great alternative to brass, if you have an aversion to that medium. Both sets will make a definite improvement over the plastic parts.

8/10



## LEGEND

### IDF TANK .50 CAL MACHINE GUN SET (2 EACH)

### ITEM NO. WLF 1107

In my opinion these are the best and most Accurate .50 cal machine guns available that are designed specifically to mount above the main gun on IDF main battle tanks. Two complete weapons are included, with each gun Legend supply an ammo box with a separate length of ammunition, the correct mounting bracket, an empty case bag and the remote firing mechanism that mounts above the pistol grips.

A must for IDF armour modellers.

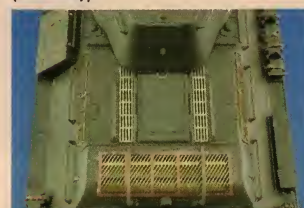
9/10



## Coming Soon...

### EDUARD 1:48 AFV SETS

M4 Sherman Fenders (28008), German WW2 Tool Box (28009), German Tool Clips (28102), T-34-76 1941 general details (28015),



Panther ausf.G general details (28019), PzIV ausf.J general details (28021), Pz.IV ausf.J Schurzen (28024), Pz.IV ausf.J Schurzen mesh (28025), Jagdpanther Late general details (28028).



### ROYAL MODEL

1:35 Italian Ariete MBT crew



## MONROE PERDU

### "THE SUNKEN ROAD"

### ITEM NO. MPD-034

This is a great little vignette sized comprising of two resin parts and a neat set of decals to place on the wall. I liked the inclusion of a set of photos with some suggestions for scenarios ranging from a winter Russian scene, through to a dusty desert one.

The casting is first class incorporating some beautiful detail. The instructions mention this is designed with 1:35 scale in mind, in this scale you are limited to what to place on the base, anything bigger than a Panzer 1 or 2 or a Jeep would be just too large. At a push a smaller 1:24 scale rally car would fit, there is also mention of it being suitable for 1:48, but I personally think the wall would be over scale for 1:48.

An ingenious and well-produced little set piece. Highly recommended

9/10



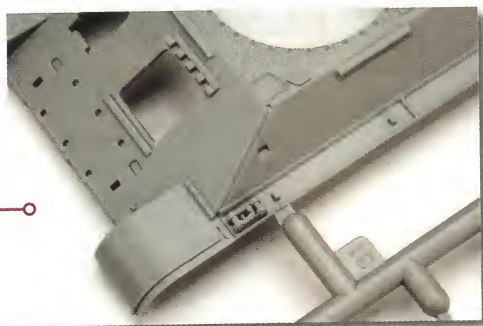


## DRAGON

**1:72 T-34/85 MODEL 1944  
ITEM NO. 7269**

First up is the T-34/85 Model 1944 which is a logical progression from Dragon's earlier T34 releases. The kit consists of 98 parts including an etched metal grill, a section of twisted wire for tow cables and DS100 tracks. The parts are crisply moulded with no flash which we have come to expect from Dragon, of note are the exhaust pipes which due to slide mould technology are pre drilled which is a nice touch in this scale. Also of note is the fact that the road wheels are moulded as one piece and come separate in their own bag and only require a minimum of cleaning up which saves the builder some time as the cleaning up of road wheels is always a chore in any scale. One drawback of the one piece castings are the fact that the wheels do not have the lightening holes drilled right through, this to me is a minor point and you could always drill them out (12 per the 12 road wheels) but I feel that it really is unnecessary in this scale but whatever floats your boat. Although there isn't a lot to this kit the instruction sheet is clear and well printed (thank goodness Dragon have ditched their awful photograph instructions). The kit comes with four marking options including a captured German example, the decals themselves are well printed and in register. I have dry fitted this kit and came across no fit problems and is up to Dragon's usual high standards, so I thoroughly recommend this kit.

8/10 Jeff Adams



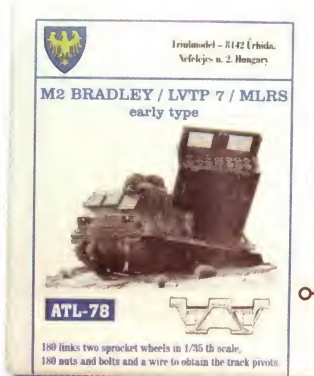
## LEGEND

### M60 ROAD WHEEL SET LF 1108

At first glance you may wonder why you need resin replacement wheels for the M60 series tanks. On closer inspection it becomes obvious, these are in fact the steel patterned wheels commonly associated with M48. This pattern of wheels can be seen on both Israeli upgraded Megach's and US Army M60A3 TTS Tanks. The original M60 wheel is distinguishable by the little strengthening webs around their circumference of the rim.

These are a must for IDF modellers, this set certainly saves anyone modelling either of these subjects having to purchase a whole M48 kit just for the wheels.

9/10



## FRUIMODEL

### WHITE METAL TRACK SETS

#### ATL-78 M2 BRADLEY/ LVTP-7/MLRS EARLY TYPE TRACKS.

#### ATL-79 M2 BRADLEY/ LVTP-7/MLRS LATE TYPE "BIG FOOT" TRACKS.

Both sets offer great update potential for the vehicles in the US inventory that use this track design.

These white metal tracks sets are built-up by pinning them together with short lengths of wire, pretty much how the real things link together. The wire actually comes as a roll, although there is more than needed don't be to wasteful with the stuff. It is easily kinked if the holes in the tracks are partially blocked and you will soon get through it all.

The early style will be perfect for up dating the Tamiya LVTP-7 Amtrac, which could desperately do with improving in the track department. The late tracks will be perfect for the Tamiya or Academy Operation Iraqi Freedom vehicles. Thanks to their own weight they give the perfect amount of sag for that all important realistic finish.

They make a real improvement but a like all individual tracks time consuming to put together.

8/10





## CROMWELL MODELS

### COMBAT READY 1:72 MERKAVA IID

### COMBAT READY 1:72 MERKAVA III

These amazingly well detailed and beautifully cast tanks are designed for the wargamer. If the wargaming tag puts you off, it shouldn't these kits are really simple to build as they should be for war gaming. But not only that they are stunningly well detailed. Cromwell have even incorporated the anti slip texture onto turret surfaces. Only requiring the main gun and the hatches to literally complete the assembly. I'm finding them really addictive as they look great.

Easy to build and are a real testament to what can be achieved in this scale; Excellent.

9.5/10



## 1/72 WWII GROUND VEHICLE SET-4 U.S. AMBULANCE & TOW TRUCK

Accurately reproduced U.S. ambulances & towing tractor • Highly detailed engine room & chassis

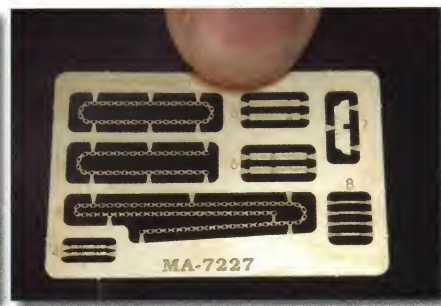
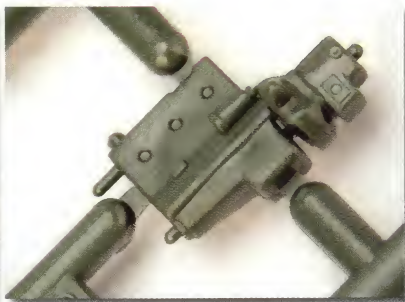
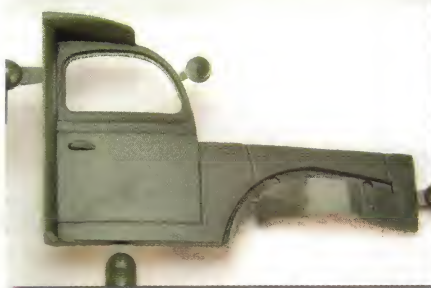


## ACADEMY

### 1:72 WWII GROUND VEHICLE SET-4 U.S. AMBULANCE AND TOW TRUCK ITEM NO. 13403

Academy continues to release vehicle kits, which both the Armour and aircraft modeller find attractive, the latest of which is the Dodge Ambulance and Tow truck. The ambulance consists of 60 parts including the windows and the tow truck and trailer a further 30. The Ambulance is well detailed and comes complete with a nice 4 part engine but the modeller has no way of showing this off as Academy has not given you the option of open engine hatches, strange. The ambulance goes together and is well detailed although the body interior is quite spartan as you have the option of posing the doors open! The tractor and trailer are simple affairs and go together with a minimum of fuss and look the part. Only one decal option is included in the kit. In early kits in this range (Vehicle set and GMC Truck) Academy included a lot of extras such as stowage, weapons etc, so it is a shame that this kit does not. That said I still recommend this kit, which is ideal for aircraft dioramas.

7.5/10 Jeff Adams





## DRAGON

1:72 PRE-BUILT

T-34/76 MOD 1940 ITEM NO 60134

T-34/76 MOD 1941 ITEM NO 60135

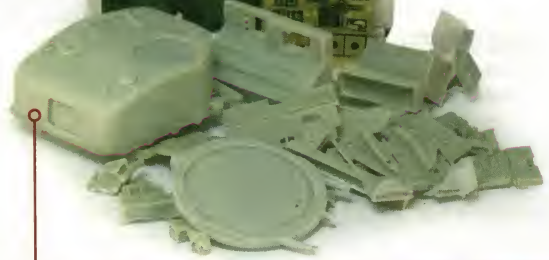
T-34/76 MOD 1942 ITEM NO 60136

When the major manufacturers started to release pre-built they tended to look cheap and nasty to be honest, but things have really moved on since those early releases.

These latest T-34's from dragon look superb, including decent paint finishes with authentic schemes and a restrained level of weathering make these a great little collectables range.

A great way of building a collection without the hassle of building them yourself.

8.5/10



## RESCAST

1:35 AVRE CONVERSION

ITEM NO. 35.170

Resicast's AVRE (Armoured Vehicle, Royal Engineers) conversion for the Tamiya Churchill Mk VII (Kit nos. 35100 or 35210) has been available for some time now but is new to the MMI office. The kit allows the creation of a 'basic' Churchill AVRE, which, if the modeller wishes, can be used as a starting point to portray one of many of the AVRE variants that saw action on D-Day and thereafter. One thing to point out is that the majority of WWII Churchill AVREs were built around the Mk IV Churchill (more about this later). The Mk VII was used to create post-war AVREs.

Upon opening the stout cardboard box the modeller is presented with 68 green-coloured resin parts and a single fret of photo-etch. Each part is clearly identified by a part number cast on the resin sprue which matches the numbered key of parts in the 7 page instruction booklet. As well as a key to the parts the booklet contains assembly instructions with corresponding photographs of the model during construction. The assembly instructions start by following the relevant assembly instructions of the Tamiya donor kit. This is a positive aspect of the instructions. What lets the instructions down is the quality of the photographs. Why, in general, can resin kit manufacturers not pay greater attention to assembly diagrams?

The quality of the castings is excellent with no evidence of air bubbles and only small amounts of over pours to be removed by the modeller. I would recommend the use of a sharp blade and razor saw to remove the castings from their sprues.

As mentioned earlier it is necessary to backdate the Tamiya Mk VII to a Mk IV Churchill. In reality the Mk VII was a completely new tank with thicker armour than earlier versions. The earlier tanks were up-armoured by bolting additional armour plates to the sides. This requires the modeller to remove the detail on the side plates such as the escape hatch hinges. Resicast provide replacement square escape hatches and round bolt heads, the location of which will need to be determined by the modeller using photographic reference material. Other side detail, unique to the AVREs, is also provided. However these changes alone do not complete the back-dating. Resicast points out in the instructions that there are major differences at the front of the side plates that make up the sponsons of the tank. What Resicast fail to provide is information of how to change this detail. It is beyond the scope of this review to describe the necessary changes, but good reference material is a must should the modeller wish to attempt any changes to the sponsons. A hollow turret is provided, cast in two parts with the join being at the level of a weld seam on the real turret. Careful filling of the join will preserve the detail of the cast turret. According to several internet sources the turret is, dimensionally, a very good match of the real thing. The distinctive Petard Mortar is very well done and includes a couple of the 'flying dustbin' rounds. The mortar can be modelled in an open position, ready for reloading.

All in all this a very good conversion set, particularly the turret, which is the most accurate available at the moment. However I cannot help but think that Resicast have missed a trick by not providing the necessary instructions to accurately back-date the Mk VII or even provide the replacements parts to do so.

7/10 Keith Goldsworthy



# BUYERS GUIDE>>>>>>>>>>

[www.petChimilitarymodeling.com](http://www.petChimilitarymodeling.com)





# Contact Details - for companies featured in MMI...

## ACCURATE ARMOUR/ ARMOUR DISTRIBUTION

Units 15-16 Kingston Industrial Estate,  
Port Glasgow, Inverclyde, PA14 5DG Scotland.  
Tel: 01475 743 955  
Fax: 01475 743746  
www.accurate-armour.com

## ADALBERTUS

Iberyjska 7/49  
02-764, Warsaw, Poland  
e-mail wbulhak@can.waw.pl

## THE AIRBRUSH COMPANY LTD

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alex@airbrushes.com  
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## ARMOUR WORKSHOP

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## ALCLAD II LACQUERS INT.

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## ALPINE, ROYAL MODEL, ARTISAN MORI, YOSCI; SMARTMODELLING

No.7 Gordons Way, Oxted, Surrey RH8 0LN. UK  
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## AMPERSAND PUBLISHING

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## ARCHER

(Historex in UK)  
PO Box 1277 Youngsville, NC 27596-1277, USA  
www.archertransfers.co

## BISON DECALS

Available from www.hannants.co.uk and  
www.pdi-model-supplies.com

## BLAST MODELS

Via AFV Modeller or www.blast-models.com

## CALIBRE 35

Via Hannants in UK

## CAMMETT

(Lifecolour, Scale Caliber)  
Adlen House, Eardisland, Leominster,  
Herefordshire, HR6 9BD, United Kingdom  
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www.cammett.co.uk

## CLASSIC PUBLICATIONS

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# Next Issue - On sale June 1st 2006

## M7 PRIEST PART 1

The Editor gets to grips with a full resin kit in part 1 of a Sicilian diorama



## ALAN HOBBIES FLAK PANZER 38T

Andy King gives Alan Hobbies Flakpanzer a serious make over

## TRUMPETER KV-1 EHKRANAMI

Frazer Gray brings Trumpeter's up-armoured KV-1 Ehkranami to life in a comprehensive feature

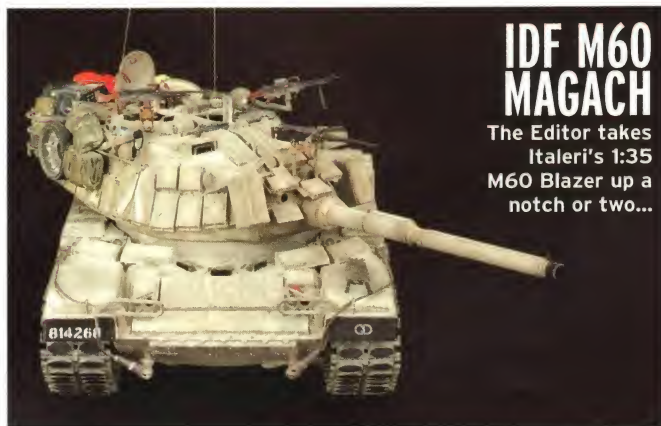


### FOR YOUR SAFETY



Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!



## IDF M60 MAGACH

The Editor takes Italeri's 1:35 M60 Blazer up a notch or two...

# Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

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Group Editor; Marcus Nicholls  
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Fax; +44 (0)1525 222574

Editorial enquiries;  
Tel; +44 (0)1752 341121  
Email; editor@modelmilitary.com

Advertising enquiries;  
Tel; +44 (0)1525 222573  
Email; colin@adhpublishing.com

Subscription enquiries;  
Tel; +44 (0)1525 222573  
Fax; +44 (0)1525 222574  
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## THE PROS AND CONS OF THE INTERNET

**F**or this job I have to use the Internet a lot, from communicating with the office to searching for reference material for the magazine.

The example I have is that I needed some information on a future helicopter build involving Academy's 1:48 CH-46 Sea Knight. I do enjoy building helicopters but I am certainly no expert on the specific details and any possible inaccuracies with the models

available. Therefore I needed to get some more reference, just to make sure I wasn't going to make any major or obvious mistakes. My own reference collection is very limited on helicopters, basically it only consists of 'Budgie the Helicopter' written by the Duchess of York and some old Top Trumps cards! Going off at a bit of a tangent, I still find it amazing looking on some of the modelling website forums when people ask where they can find out something before even bothering to try search engines such as Google that are even located on the sites themselves. My favourite was the person who asked if Accurate Armour had a website,

not only had that person not tried Google first, but best of all the link to Accurate Armour's website was actually on the home page of this particular site.

Well anyway back to the point, I typed in CH-46 photos and hey presto!, links to some 101,000 sites appeared. A little more than I had hoped or expected, fortunately the first 20 or so contained all the info I needed.

The point being, the Internet can be a double-edged sword - great if you know where to look and a real time waster if you don't. It also really eats into your modelling time if you're not careful - just ask TMMI's editor why his H-34 Choctaw isn't finished! ■



### PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

For many years I have used and been very happy with the Aztek A470 airbrush system. If you are not familiar with this type of airbrush it was designed by the Kodak photo people years ago for retouching photographs, and one of the design specifications was that it was virtually maintenance free, and easier to clean than standard airbrushes that have a needle running the length of the body. With the Aztek, only the replaceable nozzles need to be cleaned, and this suited my laziness when it came to stripping and cleaning in between painting sessions.

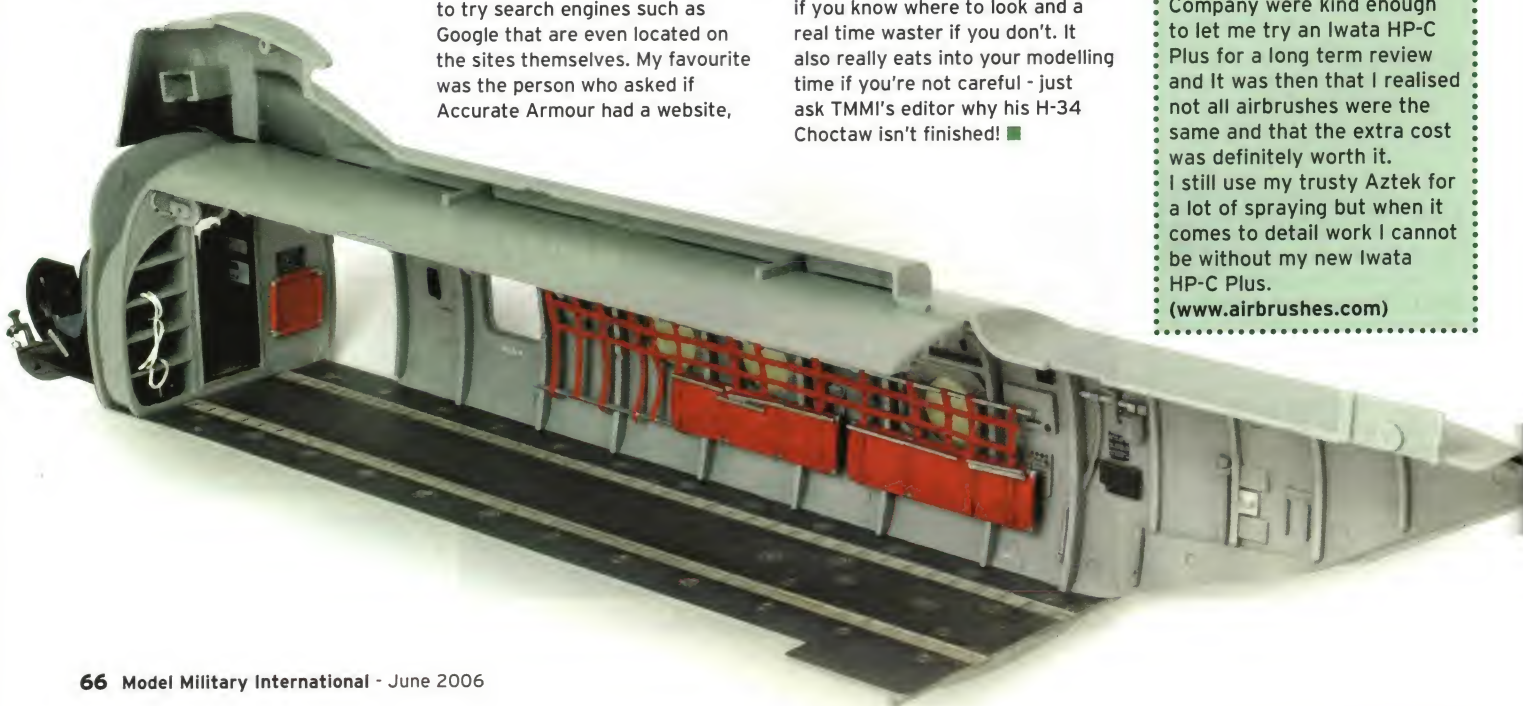
For many years the ease of cleaning in my mind outweighed the extra finesse of a standard top of the range brush.

The first time I tried an Iwata airbrush was back in 1997 when I was loaned one by a good friend to help spray the complex modern Australian Army scheme onto an M113 MRV for an issue of TMMI. It was then, having heard so much about these airbrushes, that I realised how good they actually were.

Recently The Airbrush Company were kind enough to let me try an Iwata HP-C Plus for a long term review and it was then that I realised not all airbrushes were the same and that the extra cost was definitely worth it.

I still use my trusty Aztek for a lot of spraying but when it comes to detail work I cannot be without my new Iwata HP-C Plus.

([www.airbrushes.com](http://www.airbrushes.com))





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- Hollowed rifle muzzle.
- Separate parts for bolt mechanism and accurate ammo clips.
- Lower sections of jacket are separate parts to give excellent details.
- Slide moulded field shoes exhibit breath-taking details.



▲ **German Panzer Grenadiers Kharkov 1943**  
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- Gen2 highly accurate stick grenades and egg grenades.
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- Photo-etched parts with belt gun sling and insignia.





**1/48  
MM**  
MILITARY MINIATURE SERIES

# HAMMER OF THE WERHMACHT

## 1/48 GERMAN PANZERKAMPFWAGEN III Ausf.L

(ITEM 32524)



### ABOUT THE GERMAN PANZER III Ausf.L

The Panzer III Ausf.L was introduced in July 1942 as an attempt to improve the tank's survivability in the face of heavily armed T34 and KV tanks encountered on the Russian Front. Armament consisted of an improved, long barreled KwK50 L/60 tank gun, which was effective against Russian T34 tanks up to a range of 600m, plus two 7.92mm MG34 machine guns. Front armor thickness was increased to 57mm, and 20mm thick spaced armor was added to the front hull and gun mantlet as well. The suspension system was strengthened to cope with the 200kg of added weight, and other modifications were made to ensure smooth engine operation in extreme weather conditions. A total of 635 Ausf.L tanks were produced by the end of 1942, many seeing active service on the Eastern and North African Fronts.

### ABOUT THE MODEL

This scaled-down version of the 1/48 Panzer III Ausf.L features masterful detail in a compact package. The tank's L/60 cannon is accurately depicted, together with impressive reproduction of the spaced armor panels added to the turret and hull front. Further exquisite detailing, which is amazingly simple to assemble, includes spare track roller wheels and miscellaneous equipment mounted onto the hull. This model includes separate parts to depict hull-side escape hatches and shot deflector below the gun mantlet, features that were dropped from later versions of the Ausf.L. Assembly type treads even capture realistic slackness of the upper track section. Kit includes 3 sets of markings to depict units including the sPzAbt 502 serving in Russia and the 10th Panzer Division in Tunisia.



Diecast lower hull gives model satisfying weight and presence.



Spaced armor on turret and hull front is realistically depicted

### 1/48 MM SERIES LINEUP

Offering an incredibly wide variety of choices, including tanks, light armor and support vehicles of both Axis and Allied forces. Although small in size, these models accurately capture the details of the full size vehicles. Add figures and accessories to create your own large scale desktop battle scenes.



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GERMAN TANK DESTROYER JAGDPANTHER LATE VERSION (32522)



U.S. MEDIUM TANK M4A1 SHERMAN (32523)

The 1/48 MM Series continues to grow, with a number of new items planned for release over the coming months. Watch this space for more information!



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